高永ひなこ

HINAKO TAKANAGA PRESENTS

DARIA COMICS

TURNING POINT

daria comics Frontier works

ターニングポイント

高永ひなこ

Frontier Works

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STORY

桜木圭吾（さくらぎけいご）は、旅先でヒッチハイクをしていた大学生・今村（いまむら）と敏喜（としき）と出会う。脚本家として行き詰っていた桜木は現実から逃れたい一心で、誘われるままに今村と寝てしまう。だが翌朝正気に返った桜木は今村が目覚める前に姿を消す。しかし何気ない一言で今村に探し当てられた桜木は、忘れられなかったと純粋で熱心なアプローチをされ――。

その後の描き下ろしあり!!

DARIA COMICS

hinako takanaga

高永ひなこの本

※ダリアコミックス※
大好評発売中!

LOVE ROUND!!

ターニングポイント

hinako takanaga

高永ひなこ

profile

生年月日	●9月16日生まれ
星座	●乙女座
血液型	●O型
出身・在住	●愛知県出身

voice

この本が出る頃には引っ越しをして、関西人になってるハズ！　新生活が楽しみです～。ちょろ（飼い猫♂）も早く慣れてくれますように…！

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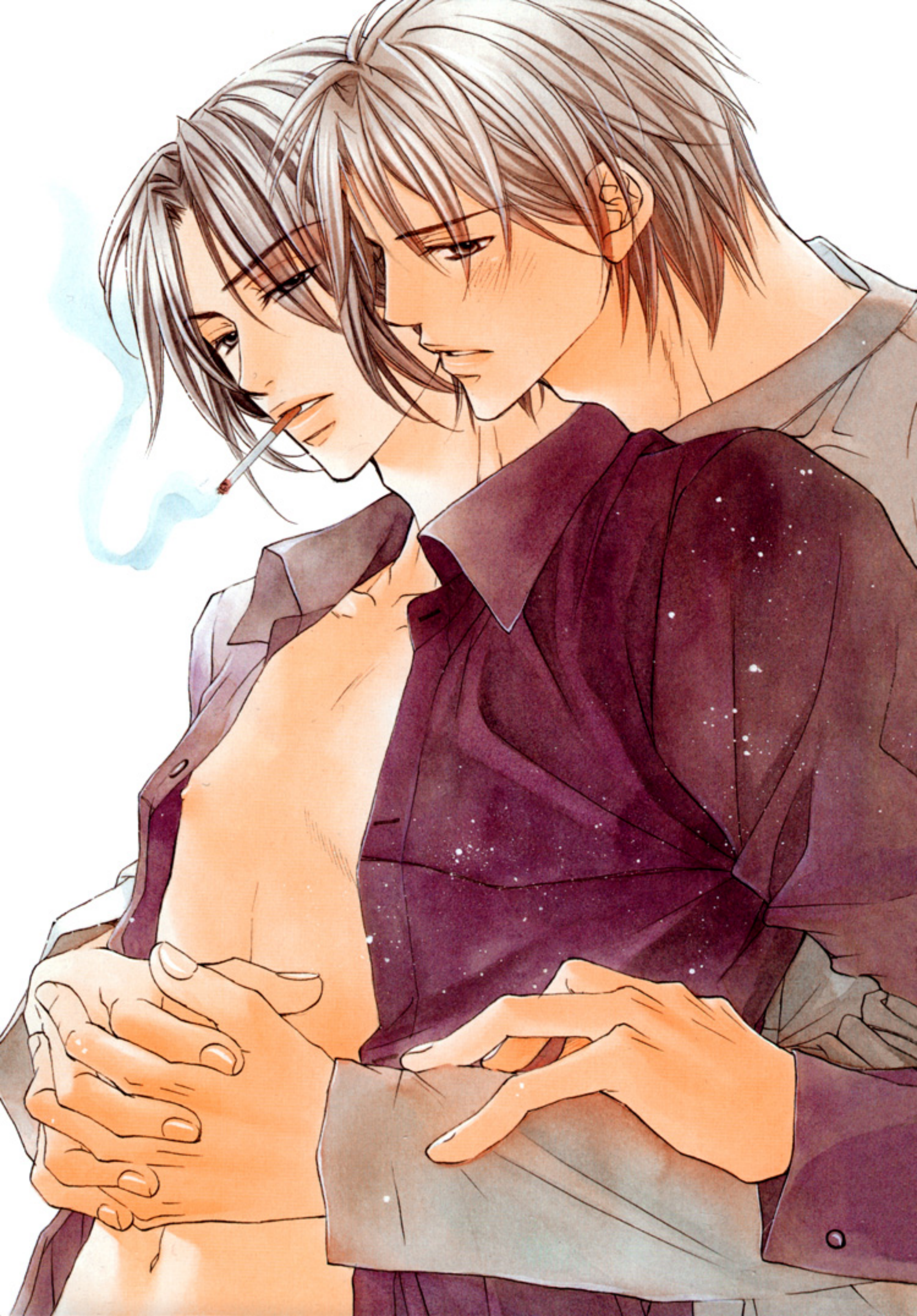


ターニングポイント

❋contents❋

ターニングポイント 前編	5
ターニングポイント 後編	41
ターニングポイント second point	79
ターニングポイント third point 前編	105
ターニングポイント third point 後編	137
ふたりの休日	169
あとがき	179

tap

tap

tap

tap

Why did it turn out like that...?

Even now, I still don't really know...

except... probably

.....

at that time, I wanted to... do something that was completely different... from my normal self...

ターニングポイント 前編

Turning point (first part)

In other words, I was

someone else.

ターニングポイント 前編

Turning point (first part)

...A few weeks ago,

HMM...?

WHAT'S THAT?

vroom

Please stop...!

screech

sigh

Ah...

thank god!

I'm in luck!

Normally,

I'd never stick my head into anything troublesome.

but, somehow,

Forced to fit.

shuff

THE CHAIN ON MY BICYCLE BROKE ...

AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THE BASIC TOOLS I HAVE WITH ME.

AND NOT MANY CARS DRIVE BY HERE...

REALLY, THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME~!

YOU A STUDENT?

pretending to be nice.

It was odd for me,

WE'RE HEADING IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

IT'S OKAY.

I'M SAKURAGI.

SAKURAGI KEIGO.

I'M ON HOLIDAY.

MISTER, ARE YOU WORKING AT THE MOMENT?

YES, BUT I'M TAKING A BREAK FROM IT RIGHT NOW.

MY NAME IS IMAMURA TOSHIKI.

WELL... I WANT SOME TIME...

TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT MY FUTURE...

YOU'RE ON LEAVE FROM SCHOOL?

SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE IT EASY FOR A WEEK ...

I SEE ...

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE RIDING A BICYCLE?

AND I THOUGHT I SHOULD TRAVEL AROUND JAPAN AND EXPAND MY HORIZONS...

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A BUSINESS MAN...

WHAT DO YOU DO?

HOW ABOUT YOU, SAKURAGI-SAN...?

...HOW NICE.

TAKING TIME OFF TO FIND ONESELF IS A PRIVILEGE OF A STUDENT.

You're even more mischievous than you look!

IS IT A QUIZ?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

Huh

!?

VROOM

WELL,

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Not that

it was the kind of job I needed to hide from others.

I just didn't want to think about it right then.

WHAT?

IS THAT SO...?

Nakano Cycle

flat tire re-pair

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

?

NO... WELL...

THE DAMAGE WAS MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT, AND HE SAID FIXING WILL TAKE AROUND 2-3 DAYS.

They need to send for replacement parts...

HMMM.

That's too bad.

Ha ha ha.

AH WELL, I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT SINCE I'M NOT IN A HURRY TO GO ANYWHERE ANYWAY.

...

AH...BUT THE EXTRA EXPENSE IS GONNA HURT...

The reason I did something that I normally would never do

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE STAYING YET?

AH... I'LL LOOK FOR A YOUTH HOSTEL OR SOMETHING.

is proba-bly

Is... is it really all right...?

Smirk

HUH!?

EH... BUT...

YOU WANNA COME STAY AT MY PLACE?

because I wanted to separate myself from my normal life.

Whoa! What a nice room!

It looks expen-sive...

Waahhh!

IT'S NOT THAT EXPEN-SIVE

SINCE IT'S OFF-SEASON RIGHT NOW.

LET'S TAKE A BATH BEFORE WE EAT.

!!

Sigh

AH... this feels so good!

Splash

Sigh

I'M KINDA ...

GETTING SCARED NOW...

HUH?

I MEAN,

SAKURAGI-SAN, YOU WON'T TELL ME WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING.

...!

And yet you're so nice to me.

even though we hardly know each other...

now I'm trying to figure out why...!!

I'm probably gonna be sold to overseas~!

splash

IS THIS WHAT YOU SAY TO MY KINDNESS!?

I'm scared!!

THIS IS NOT SOME CHEESY MYSTERY STORY!

NOT THAT...

HUH?

I'M TRYING TO HIDE IT OR ANYTHING ...

IT'S JUST... TROUBLE-SOME...

I MAINLY WORK AS A PLAYWRIGHT.

BUT I DON'T MAKE ENOUGH WITH THAT ALONE SO I TAKE ON OTHER WRITING PROJECTS.

WELL... KINDA LIKE A FREELANCE WRITER...

WOW, SO YOU'RE A WRITER?

THAT'S SO COOL...

THERE'S NOTHING COOL ABOUT IT UNLESS MY STORIES SELL WELL.

AND THEY DON'T.

IT DOESN'T MATTER!

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN DO IF YOU DON'T HAVE TALENT! I REALLY ADMIRE THAT.

...SEE?

I KNEW THE CONVERSATION WAS GONNA GO THIS WAY.

HUH?

THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL SAY NEXT:

"WHEN IS YOUR NEXT SHOW?"

"I'LL DEFINITELY GO AND SEE IT."

"HAVE YOU EVER MET ANY CELEBRITIES?"

"HOW NICE, YOU GET TO PURSUE A CAREER THAT FOLLOWS YOUR PASSION."

"WHAT KIND OF STORIES DO YOU WRITE?"

...AS IF YOU'D REALLY COME.

chuckle

shock

halt

.....

AH... SORRY.

I... DIDN'T MEAN...

NO,

I...

STAND

SEE YOU LATER ...

...!

drip

SORRY.

I'LL GET OUT FIRST.

SAKU-RAGI-SAN.

YEAH ...

SEE YA.

TAKE YOUR TIME AND SOAK UNTIL YOU'RE ALL WARMED UP.

bubble

soak

WHOA! AMAZING!

THIS LOOKS SO YUMMY!

What the hell is all this!?

Is it all right? Can I really eat this? Is it really, really all right!?

WELL... IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU'RE SO HAPPY...

IT MAKES TREATING YOU WORTH IT...

*T/N: I'd like to start the meal!

I'll definitely repay you when I become successful. I will never forget your kindness for offering me such great food!

YUMMM

It's okay, don't worry about it.

You look so happy eating, Imamura-kun.

Haha.

Itadakimasu*!

clank

I SAID SOMETHING INSENSITIVE ...

I'M REALLY SORRY.

UMM... ABOUT JUST NOW...

NO, THAT'S ...

I WAS JUST BEING TOO TENSE ...

Forget about it...

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED!

WHAT YOU SAID WAS EVERYTHING I WAS GOING TO ASK...

I think I really have no originality...

chuckle

YE...

YES! I'M AN HONEST GUY!

Ah... he's laugh-ing...

SO WHEN I SAID I'D GO SEE YOUR SHOW, I REALLY WILL!

HAHAHA,

YOU SURE ARE HONEST.

WELL, MOST PEOPLE DO MEAN IT AT THE TIME WHEN THEY SAY THOSE THINGS.

REALLY, DON'T THINK I'M LIKE OTHER GUYS.

I'M A MAN OF ACTION!

Definite-ly?

YEAH, YEAH, DEFINITELY.

chuckle chuckle

OKAY, OKAY. I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN MY NEXT SHOW'S COMING OUT.

I won-
dered
why.

It
seem-
ed
like

But
yeah,

from the
way I see it,
just the fact
that there's
something
you want to
do in life

is already an
accomplishment.

You
think?

I was
strange-
ly

enjoying
myself

Why do
you think I'm
wringing money
out from
nowhere,

trying to
continue my
journey to
discover the
purpose of
my life?

A feeling
that I
had lost

for a
long
time...

WILL
YOU... FIND
YOUR TRUE
PURPOSE
...?

SO IF
YOU GO ON
WITH YOUR
JOURNEY...
IMAMURA-
KUN...

That's
why I'm
still in the
middle
of my
journey!

WELL,
WELL, I
HAVEN'T
YET...

in this
case...

BUT A LOT OF
INTERESTING
THINGS HAVE
HAPPENED ON
MY WAY!

For
example
...

maybe finally...

The couple just happened to be behind...

And then, that time...

For real?

I can sleep...

until morning...?

...SAKU-RAGI-SAN.

SAKURAGI-SAN.

OH.
SO SAKURAGI-SAN CAN'T REALLY HANDLE HIS ALCOHOL.
Aha.
cover
...
.....
AH... CRAP.
I'M... SERIOUSLY ...
GO COOL MY HEAD DOWN...
open
LET ME...

SLOW

IT'S NOT LIKE I DO THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO!

.....

WEREN'T YOU GOING TO USE MY SCRIPT!!?

THAT'S WHAT THE SPONSOR WANTS! I CAN'T HELP IT!

AND DO THIS TO ATTRACT CUSTOMERS!!?

KEIGO... DON'T YOU HAVE ANYONE YOU CAN SETTLE DOWN WITH...?

IF YOU DON'T GET A STABLE JOB, IT'S HARD TO...

I'm sorry.

I'm sorry, mom.

IT'S NOT LIKE I DO THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO!

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS, THEN WRITE SOMETHING THAT SELLS!

YOU SURE ARE DETERMINED. HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO GO ON LIKE THIS?

WHAT? YOU'RE STILL WRITING?

Shut up.

I don't need to hear from someone who has given up on his own dream so easily. Stop bothering me.

...
SAN.

...SAKU-
RAGI-
SAN?

flinch

SAKU-
RAGI-
SAN!

Stop saying whatever you want!

WHAT~? ISN'T IT NICE? I THINK PEOPLE WHO DON'T GIVE UP ON THEIR DREAMS ARE AWESOME!

YOU'LL GET THERE AS LONG AS YOU WORK HARD...

Shut up.

Shut up.

YOUR SCRIPT IS GOOD, BUT YOU'RE PLAYING IT TOO SAFE.

THERE IS NO IMPACT...

The reviewers speak as though they know what they're talking about.

Yeah, I know, it's cos it's someone else's problem, after all.

...
AH
...

ARE...
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT
...?

YOU HAD A
NIGHTMARE...

...

...DID
I...

SAY SOME-
THING...?

EH,

AH...

WELL...

I KEEP...

DREAMING OF ALL THE BAD THINGS ABOUT MY WORK...

SAKU-RAGI-SAN.

...HOW,

EMBAR-RASS-ING...

.....

He really is honest...

IT REPLAYS OVER AND OVER.

LATELY ...I CAN'T EVEN

SLEEP PROPERLY ANYMORE...

SAKU...

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT ...

I COULD FINALLY SLEEP TONIGHT ...

SAKURAGI-SAN...

SAKURAGI-SAN...

YOU REALLY LIKE YOUR JOB, DON'T YOU?

?

HUH?

ARE YOU BEING SARCAS-TIC?

TOO MUCH

OPTIMISM IS NOTHING BUT INSOLENCE.

BUT,

IF IT'S SO HARD ON YOU, YOU COULD'VE JUST QUIT ...

THINGS DON'T WORK OUT SO EASILY WHEN YOU'RE AN ADULT!!

REALLY?

NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL IT IS, YOU STILL PURSUE IT...

IT'S AS THOUGH YOU'RE IN LOVE.

ACTUALLY, I ENVY YOU FOR THAT.

...DON'T SPEAK LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE...

SO YOU...

CALL THIS LOVE...?

IN THAT CASE, MY LOVE

IS THE WORST KIND OF UNREQUITED LOVE.

IT WILL NEVER, EVER

BEAR ANY FRUIT.

I WANT TO QUIT.

I WANT TO QUIT... AND JUST LET IT GO.

SAKU-RAGI-SAN.

Ugh...

I WANT TO GIVE UP.

WHY AM I... STILL...

huddle

SAKU-RAGI-SAN...!!

...
HUH?

hug

WHAT
...

startle

...ARE YOU...

...ARE YOU GAY?

blush

EH,

UM...

.....

AH...

I'M SORRY ...

.....

Why was I...

able to do such things that time?

...
SAKU-
RAGI-
SA...

.....

...I
WANT TO
SLEEP.

WILL THIS
HELP ME
SLEEP?

SA...

SAKU-
RAGI-
SAN.

In
any
case,
I...

I wanted to

become a completely different me...

HAH!

HA...

slide

AH!

AH.

pant

flinch

rub

rub

UGH ...!

...!

pant

flinch

SAKU-
RAGI-
SAN...

HMM
...

...
FUU.

pant

squish

squish

pinch

SAKU-
RAGI-
SAN...

Fu...

Hah...

...
HUH
...?

HAVE YOU
EVER DONE
THIS...

WITH A
MAN...?

Pant

Pant

STOP ASKING...

SUCH NON-SENSE ...

WHY...?

Pant

WELL... I...

I WAS ONLY GOING TO MAKE BOTH OF US COME BUT...

I CAN'T HOLD BACK...

.....

RIGHT ...

IF THIS OVER-WHELM-INGLY EXTRA-ORDINARY DAY

JUST DO WHATEVER

YOU WANT TO DO...

COULD JUST BLOW EVERYTHING APART

AND RETURN IT ALL BACK TO THE BEGINN-ING...

UNTIL I CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT...

THAT WILL BE PERFECT.

SAKU-RAGI-SAN...

gulp

I want to sleep.

I wanted it to make me stop thinking about everything.

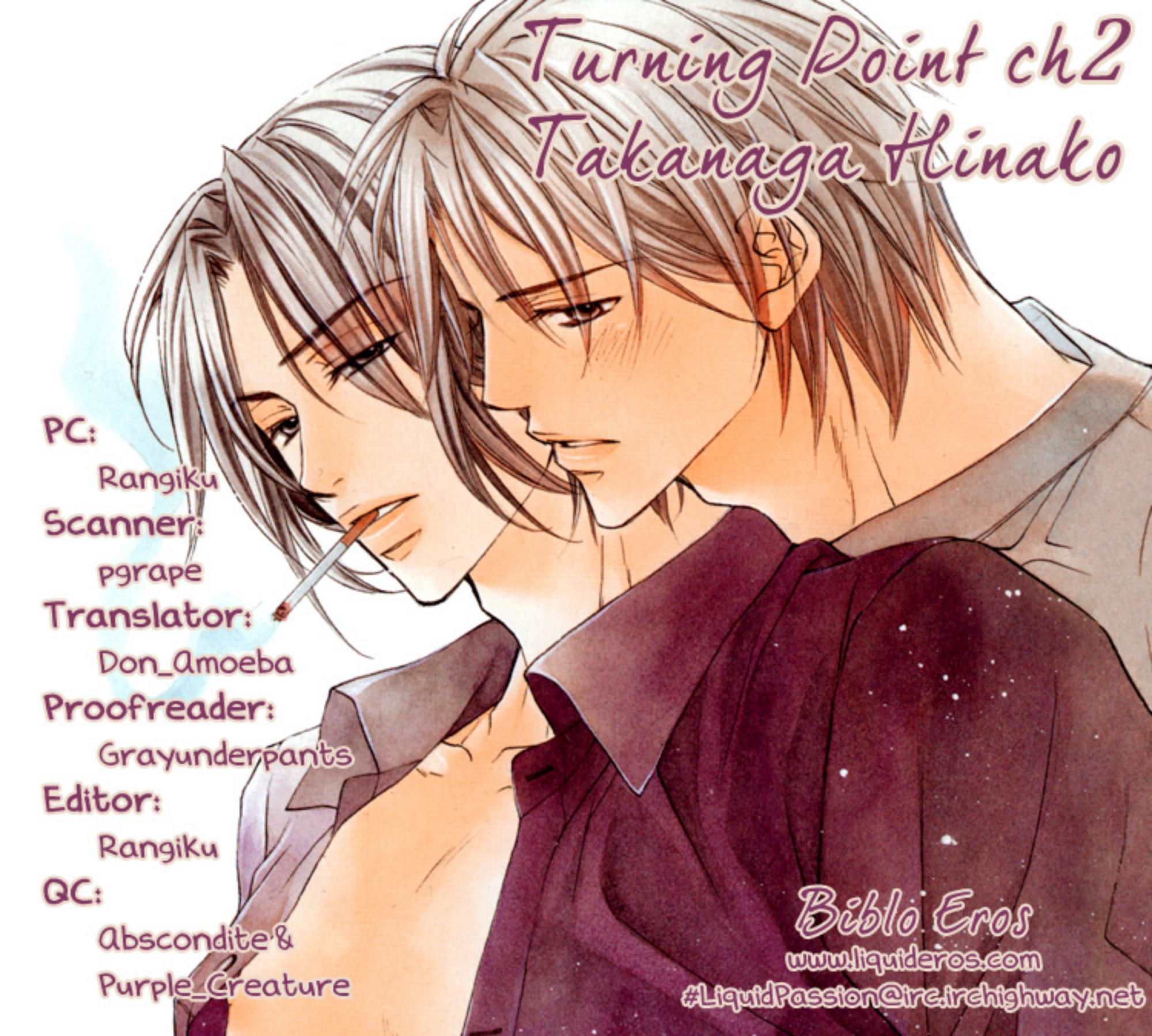
.....!

...

SAKURAGI-SAN...?

Turning Point first part ✻END

Turning Point ch2
Takanaga Hinako



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I woke up to the sunlight streaming through the paper screen

and realized I had been able to sleep like a log until morning.

My head was completely clear,

which was probably why...

ターニングポイント 後編

Turning point (second part)

the sense of reality came rushing back at me all at once...

It was a disgrace

that I exposed myself

like that to a kid...

ターニングポイント 後編

Turning point (second part)

Thank you for your hard work!

Great job on the opening night!

MIZUMORI-SAN, YOU WERE GREAT AS THE HEROINE!

It was really intense ...!

I cried at the ending scene...!

Thank you very much!

Keep up the good work until the last day!

THE AUDIENCE RESPOND-ED WELL,

AND THE SCRIPT WAS WELL RECEIVED TOO.

SAKU-RAGI-SAN!

Is that all?

What?

REALLY.

THAT'S NICE.

WHAT IS IT?

THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'D LIKE TO SEE YOU AT THE RECEPTION DESK.

SEE ME?

Ah, here he is.

受付

Saku-ragi-san...!!

...!

I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU!

THESE PAST 3 MONTHS ...

I KEPT ASKING THE HOTEL STAFF, BUT THEY WOULDN'T TELL ME YOUR ADDRESS...

It's personal information.

OF COURSE, THEY WOULDN'T.

SO AS THE LAST STRAW, I ASKED THEM TO SEND YOU A MESSAGE WITH MY CONTACT DETAILS...

DID YOU GET IT?

COME TO THINK OF IT, I BELIEVE THEY DID FAX ME OR SOMETHING.

turn

IF THAT'S SO, THEN WHY...?

WHY?

THAT'S MY LINE.

I DIDN'T CALL YOU BECAUSE I DIDN'T FEEL THE NEED TO.

IT'S A NUISANCE THAT YOU SUDDENLY CAME HERE LIKE THAT.

...!

AH...

WELL ...

... BUT

I...

PROMISED YOU, RIGHT...?

THAT I'LL DEFINITELY COME SEE YOUR SHOW ...

... RIGHT.

SO YOU REALLY CAME, HUH...

IT WAS GOOD.

IT WAS REALLY GOOD ...!!

THAT'S NICE TO KNOW, THANKS.

THIS... IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A THEATRE ACT,

BUT THE LAST PART... REALLY CAUGHT HOLD OF MY HEART...

UM...

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT PROPER-LY...

BUT REALLY... I DON'T MEAN IT JUST AS FLATTERY ...

.....

NO...

I REALLY AM HAPPY TO HEAR THAT. I MEAN IT...

REALLY.

THANK YOU.

SAKU ...

SAKURAGI...!

Thank you for the hard work!

OH... SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR CONVERSATION.

WHO MIGHT THIS BE?

AH...

I'M IMAMURA.

OH, AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE.

HE CAME TO SEE OUR FIRST SHOW TODAY.

WHAT IS IT?

It doubles as a review meeting as well.

A DRINKING PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF OUR FIRST PERFORMANCE.

YOU'RE GOING, RIGHT?

AND YOU, TOO, IF YOU'D LIKE!

HUH...

IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO GO?

HEY, ENDOU...

OF COURSE, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT IT.

SORRY, BUT... I'LL PASS.

!

I SEE. THAT'S A SHAME.

OH...

I'M BUSY WORKING ON SOMETHING ELSE RIGHT NOW...

AH! WAIT!

WAIT A SEC, SAKURAGI-SAN.

I'm going home.

PLEASE, WAIT!

grab

AH, UM,

HUH?

WELL THEN, IMAMURA-SAN, PLEASE JOIN US ANYWAY!

WE'RE MEETING UP IN THE LOBBY AT NINE.

flutter

BYE!

SEE YOU THERE!

UM...

SINCE THEN... ARE YOU...

ABLE TO SLEEP PROPERLY ...?

WHAT ...?

LE...

LEAVE ME ALONE!

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

jerk

AH...

I'VE BEEN...

blush

WORRIED ABOUT YOU THIS WHOLE TIME.

I...

SEE...

YOU'RE RIGHT...

.....

THAT MORNING ...

YOU DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A WORD...

AND I WASN'T ABLE TO FIND YOU...

SO I THOUGHT ...

THAT IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BETTER... TO FORGET ABOUT IT ALL...

BUT

I CAN'T FORGET

NO MATTER WHAT I DO...

clutch

...!!

IMA-MURA-KU...

I WANTED TO AT LEAST...

TALK TO YOU AGAIN, JUST ONCE MORE... SO I DID EVERYTHING I COULD TO SEARCH FOR YOU...

BUT IS THIS...

NOTHING BUT A NUISANCE TO YOU ...?

SAKU-RAGI-SAN, DO YOU...

REGRET

WHAT WE DID THAT DAY?

...!

BACK THEN,

I WASN'T MYSELF.

Ah, again, why

EH...?

I WAS UNDER A LOT OF STRESS THEN,

am I...

WHICH WAS EXACTLY WHY I TOOK A BREAK...

MY HEAD WAS A MESS...

SO I'M

SORRY FOR LASHING OUT AT YOU, WHEN YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

I'm giving away too much.

BUT...!

I'D RATHER NOT REMEMBER ...

SO PLEASE, FORGET IT TOO.

TO ME, MY BEHAVIOR WAS NOTHING SHORT OF DISGRACEFUL ...

IT'S SOME-THING...

Is it because it's him...?

No, it can't be.

LET'S TALK IT OVER...

SAKURAGI-SAN!

PLEASE, WAIT!

THERE WAS NOTHING SHAMEFUL ABOUT IT...

Just one line...

SAKU-RAGI-SAN!!

"It's a both-er."

That would've ended it all, but yet...

ring

YES, SAKURAGI SPEAKING.

ring

YEAH, ENDOU.

bustle bustle

Sorry about the party the other day.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

ARE YOU COMING TO THE LAST PERFOR-MANCE?

Yeah, probably.

OH, BY THE WAY...

kya kya

AND HE'S BECOME FRIENDS WITH THE WHOLE CAST.

WELL, HE COMES TO SEE THE SHOW PRETTY MUCH EVERY OTHER DAY.

You know that student who was with you the other day?

Imamura-kun, I mean.

...YEAH.

WHAT ABOUT HIM...?

Eh?

SERIOUS-LY...?

Yeah, serious-ly.

Apparently, he's become your fan.

MY FAN...?

Hahaha (dryly)

He keeps asking when you're going to come. It's annoying.

...Should I say that's because he's my fan...

or because he has ulterior motives ...?

Why don't you just show up?

AH...!

Anyway, you're coming to the last performance, right?

I'll tell him that. Bye~!

WAIT ...!

Gimme a break...

I'm not good at dealing with people like him...

DON'T BE LIKE THAT. HE'S A GOOD GUY.

AND YOU SHOULD TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR FANS.

beep

beep...

IS HE A STALKER OR SOMETHING!?

WHAT THE HELL!

TOK

...

"ARE YOU ABLE TO SLEEP PROPERLY?"

OF COURSE, I CAN.

Even though it's not the same kind of deep, profound sleep like that night ...

カラオケ

OH, SAKURAGI!

OVER HERE!

...

Ah.

beam

I THINK THE REASON WHY THE HEROINE'S ACTIONS IN THE LAST SCENE MADE SUCH AN IMPACT...

AND YET STILL,

WAS BECAUSE, UNTIL THAT PART OF THE STORY, WE HADN'T BEEN TOO INVOLVED IN HER POINT OF VIEW.

THE AUDIENCE HAD BEEN VERY SKILLFULLY SITUATED AT A DISTANCE FROM HER PERSPECTIVE...

THAT'S TRUE...

YOU CAN SAY THAT, IN A WAY...

Ugh...

HE REALLY HAS BECOME PART OF THE GROUP...

WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT THE "COMPLETE OBJECTIVITY" OF HIS SCRIPTS IS ONE OF HIS SELLING POINTS...

THAT SORT OF INDIFFERENCE IS WELL RECEIVED AMONG EXPERTS, AND IT WORKED REALLY WELL WITH THE HEROINE THIS TIME...

Excuse me~ I'd like to make an order~!

BUT IF ONLY... HE WERE ABLE TO WRITE STORIES BASED MORE ON THE PROTAGONIST'S POINT OF VIEW...

THEN HIS WORK WOULD HAVE MORE MASS APPEAL...

Stop it.

I, TOO, THINK THAT WORKS SHOWING THE RAW SIDE OF HUMAN EMOTIONS WOULD BE INTERESTING,

BUT THAT ALOOF STYLE OF WRITING IS VERY SAKURAGI-SAN, AND I THINK IT'S TOTALLY AWESOME.

I REALLY LIKE IT.

...

Well, I guess you're right...!

He's just an amateur

but he's oddly hit the mark.

Coffee

VIDEO BOOKS

SAKU-RAGI-SAN.

SAKU-RAGI-SAN.

WHAT?

OPEN

Oh.

CIGA-RETTE ...

AH... I see.

They didn't sell this brand inside.

THANK GOD.

I THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT WITHOUT WARNING AGAIN.

...I WAS THINKING OF DOING THAT.

shock

I WAS KID-DING.

You don't have to make that face.

I DRANK A LITTLE TOO MUCH... SO I THOUGHT I'D GO TO THE PARK TO CLEAR MY HEAD. THAT'S ALL.

AH, WELL, THEN, I'LL ALSO...

stare

huff

AH... I'D BE DISTURB-ING YOU ... RIGHT?

...

IT'S OKAY.

I guess you win.

chuckle

!

IMAMURA-KUN, YOU'RE...

YES?

MORE OF A CRITIC THAN I THOUGHT.

AND YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP TOO.

HUH? OH, YOU MEAN JUST NOW...

I... SORTA... LET IT TAKE ME OVER... THAT WAS RUDE OF ME...!

NO, I WAS IM-PRESSED.

...SINCE YOU REALLY DID WATCH THE SHOW THOROUGHLY.

WELL...

Ahaha.

BECAUSE I'VE SEEN IT MORE THAN TEN TIMES...

OH, YEAH, I HEARD ...

I'D THINK THE TICKETS WOULD BE QUITE AN EXPENSE FOR A STUDENT LIKE YOU.

Not that I don't appreciate it...

THAT'S BE-CAUSE

I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO UNDERSTAND YOU BETTER, SAKURAGI-SAN.

...

SO YOU HAD ULTERIOR MOTIVES. I DON'T LIKE THAT.

turn away

shock

This guy...

Why does he say embar-rassing things like this so easily ...

... HUH?

sob

tap

THERE'S AN OUT-DOOR STAGE HERE...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

WOW... AT A PLACE LIKE THIS...

WHOA, THIS TAKES ME BACK.

DURING MY SCHOOL YEARS, I USED TO CHEAPLY RENT THIS SORT OF PLACE FOR OUR PERFOR-MANCES.

IT WAS NICE IN SUMMER. THE AIR WAS COOL...

TAKES YOU BACK?

AND A LOT OF PEOPLE USED TO COME...

REAL-LY...?

That's right. Back then,

I didn't have so much to worry about.

I only did what I wanted to do

I just enjoyed writing...

without expecting anything in return.

...

gasp

Saku-ragi-sa^n!

WAH—!

It feels kinda nice to be on stage!

THIS IS COOL!

MAYBE I SHOULD PICK UP THEATRICAL PERFOR-MANCE ...

THERE YOU GO AGAIN,

SAYING SUCH THINGS ON AN IMPULSE.

Huh~?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ACTING ON AN IMPULSE?

DOESN'T EVERYTHING START WITH AN IMPUL-SIVE IDEA ANYWAY?

DON'T QUIBBLE.

I REALLY MEAN IT! EVER SINCE I STARTED INTERACTING WITH THE CAST,

I'VE BECOME INTERESTED IN ACTING ITSELF...

IF ONE DAY, I REALLY BECOME AN ACTOR...

I can probably act in a play written by Sakuragi-san, and even play the protago-nist!

Whoa!

That's how my dream expands!

STOP IT!

IF YOU WERE TO DECIDE YOUR FUTURE BASED ON TAINTED REASONS LIKE THAT,

YOU'D DEFINITELY REGRET IT ONE DAY!!

NO, I WOULDN'T!

BESIDES, HOW ARE MY REASONS TAINTED ANYWAY!?

I LOVE YOU, SAKURAGI-SAN!!

IF MY REASON IS JUST TO BECOME A BIT CLOSER TO THE PERSON I LOVE,

I DON'T THINK IT IS TAINTED AT ALL!

...!

I said it!

hurt?

!

JUMP

Ugh.

WHAT...

AN EMBARRASSING GUY YOU ARE...

!

I... I DON'T CARE!

IF I WORRY ABOUT BEING EMBARRASSING,

grab

!

I CAN'T SAY WHAT I REALLY THINK!

What I really think...

AREN'T YOU...

HUH?

CAN YOU SAY WHAT'S IN YOUR MIND SO EASILY LIKE THAT...?

AFRAID...? WHY...

SAKU-RAGI-SAN?

I THINK I USED TO KNOW THE FEELING...

HONESTLY EXPRESSING MYSELF JUST AS I AM...

WHY DID I START TO FORGET IT...?

COULD I BE RESTRICTING MYSELF FOR NO REASON...

CARING TOO MUCH ABOUT APPEARANCES... AND COMMON SENSE...?

UM...

gasp

I'm not supposed to expose what I really think.

HUH? WHY?

WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?

I'm an idiot so I don't really understand.

MORE ...

I WANT YOU TO TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOURSELF!

NO WAY ...!

It only makes me want to hide away.

...!

THESE ARE NOT THINGS YOU TELL PEOPLE.

Why?

AH...

SO... SORRY.

SAY TOO MUCH ABOUT MYSELF WHEN I TALK TO YOU...

Ahh, here I go again.

IT SEEMS... LIKE I

I didn't want this.

But yet, why...?

I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU, SAKURAGI-SAN...

I WANT TO

YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN THE WORST OF ME.

YOU STILL WANT ME TO EMBARRASS MYSELF FURTHER...?

LIKE I SAID,

I JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE.

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT DAY IN SUCH A WAY?

I wonder~ why

every-thing seems

BACK THEN, YOU WERE UNDER A LOT OF STRESS, AND YOU WANTED TO LET IT LOOSE ON SOMEONE, RIGHT?

EVERYONE FEELS LIKE THAT SOMETIMES.

to be drawn out by him

AND I THANK GOD FOR THE CHANCE

THAT I WAS ABLE TO BE THAT "SOMEONE".

inexplicably.

PLEASE, ANSWER ME TRUTHFULLY...

ABOUT THAT DAY...

DO YOU REGRET IT...?

Ah

N...

NO...

.....

IS THAT WHY YOU DISAPPEARED...?

grab

All that I've been hiding

I DON'T ...

REGRET IT...

!

IT'S JUST THAT...

I WAS ASHAMED ...

is being dragged out.

FOR EXPOSING... MYSELF LIKE THAT...

TO... SOMEONE... ELSE...

What should I do...?

... SAKU-RAGI-SAN.

gasp

What...

...!

ER,

...IS THIS BAD?

...

DO YOU DISLIKE THIS?

What should I do...?

HUH?

I...

NO...

I... DON'T ...MIND.

...!

...

AH...

...YOU—

DAMN IT...!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE ME...

SAY SUCH EMBAR-RASSING THINGS...!!

AH... BUT,

SINCE I YELLED OUT SOMETHING QUITE EMBARRASSING JUST NOW, TOO,

now we're even, right?

You said that volun-tarily!

Yeah! Come to think of it...

I didn't mind it...

That's right. I don't... mind him.

...!

Sakuragi-san, you're so shy. ♡

YOU SAID YOU WERE A DIFFERENT PERSON THEN,

I'm being dragged out

by his straight-forward-ness.

BUT I LIKE BOTH SAKURAGI-SANS,

THE COOL ONE AND THE ONE WHO'S SENSITIVE.

Erase it from your memory...

seriously...

It's a way of living that I'd forgotten a long time ago...

BY THE WAY...

Maybe I can try to remember it again...

I said...

Please, forget that day...

Am I right?

whisper

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS SEEN YOU LIKE THAT, RIGHT?

And by doing that, I think

I might just be able to get out of that long tunnel.

how to show more of my true self.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

SHOULD WE HAVE ANOTHER DRINK AT YOUR PLACE, SAKURAGI-SAN?

Huh!? Why!?

...

...

Ah...

No... I...

just wanted to know your address...

OH...

I see.

You don't have to be so scared...

I didn't mean anything else...

No, that's a lie. I did think I might have a chance...

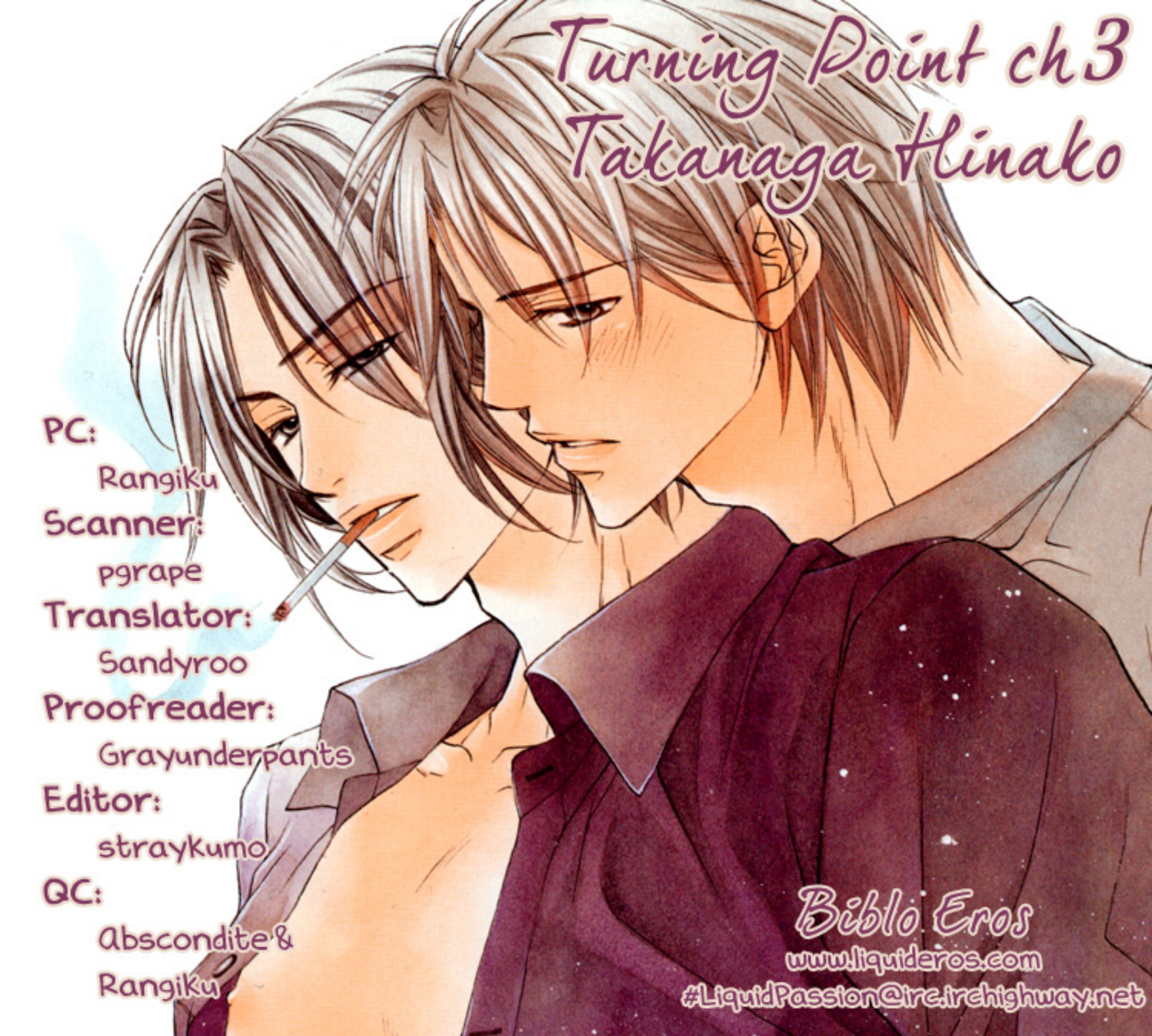
I don't know your address or your phone number, not even your email address!

Hmm, okay, then... I'll give you my email address for now...

Just the email address!?

Turning Point second part * END

Turning Point ch3
Takanaga Hinako



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ターニングポイント
~second point~
Turning Point

Toshiki & Keigo

ring-
ring
ring-
ring
click
YES,
SAKU-
RAGI
SPEAK-
ING.
Ah!
Sakuragi-san!?
It's me,
Imamura!
OH,
HEY.
Can I tell you
something?
Right now!!
HM?
Wait up
for me,
okay!?
I'll be
there in,
um... twenty
minutes.
HUH?
HANG
ON.
I want
to tell
you face
to face...!
Ah...
actually,
I'll come
over!
open
IMAMU-
RA...!
HEY,
HEY, DON'T
JUST
DECIDE...

I got a named part in the next performance!!

HUH?

SAKURAGI-SAN!

!

...I met Imamura when I was taking some time off work last summer.

I was in a slump with my work as a playwright and let myself get carried away by him...

just the once...

slide

heatrical H·A·T
ompany

LISTEN ...

ABOUT IMAMURA...

HM?

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT TOO EARLY FOR HIM...?

...OH,

YOU MEAN HIS NEW PART?

After that, he became strangely attached to me...

and started sticking to me like glue.

YOU'LL CELEBRATE WITH ME, WON'T YOU? LET'S CELE-BRATE!

OKAY, OKAY, CALM DOWN!

You're so annoying!

HE'S ONLY JUST STARTED THEATRE WORK...

AND HE STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO IN TERMS OF ACTING SKILL.

I'M JUST WONDERING IF THIS NEW PART'S A BIT TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO HANDLE...

What if he screws up?

HMM...

BUT YOU SAW HIS FIRST STAGE PERFORMANCE LAST MONTH, TOO, DIDN'T YOU?

YEAH ...

HE DIDN'T HAVE MANY LINES, BUT HE HAD A REAL PRESENCE ON THE STAGE...

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE HE'S TALL, AND HE'S VERY FREE IN HIS MOVEMENTS AND EXPRESSIONS. IT REALLY SHOWS ON STAGE.

I'D LIKE TO TRY BUILDING ON THAT.

IF HE DOES WELL... HE COULD HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AHEAD OF HIM...

...

...In truth...

I also...

I felt that a little.

BUT I THOUGHT ...

THAT WAS JUST BECAUSE MY OPINION OF HIM IS A BIT BIASED.

...

WH-

WHY WOULD I BE BIASED?

What the hell? What am I saying?

OKAY, LET'S MOVE ON TO ACT TWO NEXT!

*intentionally blank

...

HE COULD HAVE A GREAT FUTURE...

SAKURAGI-SAN!

HOW DID I DO...?

HM?

OH...

WELL, YOU HAD PLENTY OF ENTHUSI-ASM.

WHA-AAT?

SO I'M THINKING OF STARTING OVER AND ENROLLING AT DRAMA SCHOOL.

IF YOU WANNA DO SOMETHING, YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT PROPERLY!

Can't you be a bit more, y'know... constructive?

When we met, Imamura was a university student. But then he said...

...and just like that, he quit university.

It's frightening to think what young people are capable of...

Um... I GUESS...

COULD YOU AT LEAST...

GIVE ME SOME ADVICE OR SOME-THING...?

...YOUR ACTING IS STILL A BIT SUPERFICIAL.

YOU HAVE TO TRY IMAGINING YOUR CHARACTER'S BACKGROUND...

LIKE WHAT HIS FAVOURITE FOOD IS, OR HIS TASTE IN DECORATING...

They aren't scared of anything,

so nothing stands between them and their desires.

IT'S THE SAME WITH ANY HUMAN RELATIONSHIP, RIGHT? IF YOU KNOW SOME-ONE WELL,

YOUR ACTING WILL NATURALLY GAIN MUCH MORE DEPTH.

Every-one went through that stage at some point.

But unfortunately, for me...

S... SAKURAGI-SAN.

HM?

TODAY ...

Hn...

... WHY?

Eh?

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D REALLY LIKE SOME MORE OF YOUR ADVICE...

...

WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I CAME ROUND TO YOUR PLACE...?

that time has long since passed...

Even though he said things like that...

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU,

SAKURAGI-SAN!

...I don't get it.

ALL RIGHT.

FINE BY ME.

!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

bow

and did

things like that...

...

...

What's going on in that head of his...?

SINCE THEN, IMAMURA

HASN'T

MADE A SINGLE MOVE ON ME.

...

EVEN THOUGH HE'S...

REALLY PLAYFUL AROUND ME...

What is this?

!

IT'S NOT LIKE

NO, I MEAN...

I ACTIVELY **WANT** ANY-THING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN US.

IT'S JUST ...

Why am I so restless ...?

KIDS HIS AGE

EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE,

IT'LL BE FOR THE BEST...

I feel like I'm being left behind...

CHANGE THEIR FEELINGS ALL TOO EASILY...

ding-dong

There he is, looking all innocent...

Come in.

Thanks!

*blank panel

HN... OKAY.

NEXT... YEAH, THIS BIT HERE.

TRY READING THIS LINE A BIT MORE ANGRILY THAN BEFORE.

OKAY.

pop

GOOD EVENING!

THANKS FOR LETTING ME COME OVER.

WHOA...

He hasn't got stuck in a particular acting style,

so he instantly absorbs anything you teach him.

.....

HE'S GOT GOOD INSTINCTS, TOO...

IF YOU'RE SO SURE SHE'S INNOCENT...

THEN YOU WON'T HAVE A PROBLEM SORTING OUT THE MESS AFTERWARDS, RIGHT?

Burning with passion,

like molten iron that has yet to be moulded.

WHAT A STRANGE FEELING.

AM I...

ENVIOUS OF HIM...?

He can become anything he wants.

With all this potential, his future is so bright...

it's dazzling...

AH, DID I... MESS UP JUST NOW?

NO. YOU WERE GOOD.

HUH?

...LET'S STOP HERE.

IT'S JUST... WELL, SEE...

THIS ISN'T ONE OF MY SCRIPTS.

SO, HERE.

IT'S PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA TO RELY TOO MUCH ON MY INTERPRETATION OF IT.

Take it.

...!

BUT...

I DON'T MIND DOING IT IN YOUR STYLE...

OH...

I...

But I'm not involved in this one.

I CAN ONLY GET AWAY WITH IT WHEN I'M BROUGHT IN TO HELP FINE-TUNE PERFORMANCES.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT, BUT THE DIRECTOR WON'T STAND FOR IT.

YOU KNOW...

MY SCRIPTS REALLY AREN'T WORTH GETTING THAT OBSESSIVE ABOUT.

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

I...

AH! OF COURSE, I REALISE...

THAT I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE I'M IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT, BUT STILL.

...

I REALLY WISH I COULD ACT IN A PLAY THAT YOU WROTE, SAKURAGI-SAN...

grip

!

THE REASON I STARTED THEATRE IN THE FIRST PLACE

IMA ...

IMA-MURA ...

THAT'S WHY I...

Hah...

IS BECAUSE I ADMIRE YOU...

AND BECAUSE I WANTED TO GET JUST A LITTLE BIT CLOSER TO YOU...!

Ah!

move back

—!

I... WANT TO HURRY UP AND BECOME A REAL ACTOR...

SOMEONE THAT YOU'D APPROVE OF...

...

Th...

WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I... UM...

This guy...!

clench

...AND JUST WHEN IS THAT GOING TO BE?

HUH?

HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO TAKE FOR YOU TO BECOME THIS GREAT ACTOR...?

ARE YOU REALLY PLANNING TO...

LEAVING THINGS BETWEEN US HANGING IN THE BALANCE UNTIL THEN?

...PRETTY CARELESS, AREN'T YOU?

...!

GO HOME,

YOU IDIOT.

Uwah!

Saku-ragi-san!

WAIT!

YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!

I'M SORRY!

I JUST NEVER THOUGHT,

NOT IN MY WILDEST DREAMS,

THAT YOU'D ...

...

YOU KNOW I FEEL THE SAME ...!

NH...

rumble

NH...!

NH...

MHF...

NNH...!

...I'VE BEEN DESPERATELY TRYING TO PLAY IT COOL FOR YOU.

NOW IT'S ALL BEEN FOR NOTHING...

...HAH?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...

Nh!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?

I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO STOP BEING SO IMMATURE... AND BECOME MORE GROWN-UP LIKE YOU, SAKURAGI-SAN...

THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT THEATRE, THE MORE I REALISE...

THAT YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING. THAT FEEL-ING...

KEPT GROWING BIGGER AND BIGGER INSIDE ME...

ALL THE GUYS AT THE THEATRE COMPANY HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR YOU, TOO.

kiss

Hah.

Ah!

squeeze

I WAS SO SURE THAT YOU WOULDN'T LOOK AT ME TWICE, THE WAY I AM NOW...

AND BESIDES, YOU NEVER OFFERED ME ANY CHANCES...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

SO NOW IT'S MY FAULT!?

I...

I SAW YOU GETTING MORE AND MORE IM-MERSED IN THEATRE AND ACTING...

SO I THOUGHT...

THEATRE WAS ALL THAT MATTERED TO YOU NOW...

AND THAT YOU'D LOST INTER-EST ...IN ME.

...!

...

I'M SORRY, I'M SUCH... AN IDIOT...!

GLOMP

AH, GEEZ! LIKE THAT COULD EVER HAPPEN!

Again... when I'm with him...

I say things...

that I'd never normally admit to...

Nh ...

Why am I becoming like this...?

Nh.

SAKU-RAGI-SAN...!

I LOVE YOU...

twitch

AH...

squish

stroke

stroke

WAIT...

Love...?

HAH ...

ah.

Nh.

ah.

HAH ...

Aah... I think

I LOVE YOU...

SAKU-RAGI-SAN...

I feel the same...

PUSH

...IT'S SUR-PRISING, THOUGH.

WHAT IS?

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D GET SO CAUGHT UP IN THEATRE.

WHY NOT?

WELL, YOU ONLY STARTED IT ON IMPULSE...

I kinda feel responsible.

HN, WELL, I GUESS.

BUT I'M TOTALLY INTO IT NOW...

NOT AS MUCH

AS I'M INTO YOU, THOUGH.

drop

How can you say such embarrassing things with a straight face...?

...!

Waah, I made you blush! ♡

Turning Point second point ✱ END

Happy Anniversary
Liquid Eros!
As Liquid Eros moves into another year, our hearts, thoughts & prayers are with everyone affected by the recent events in Japan. Let us all keep moving forward!
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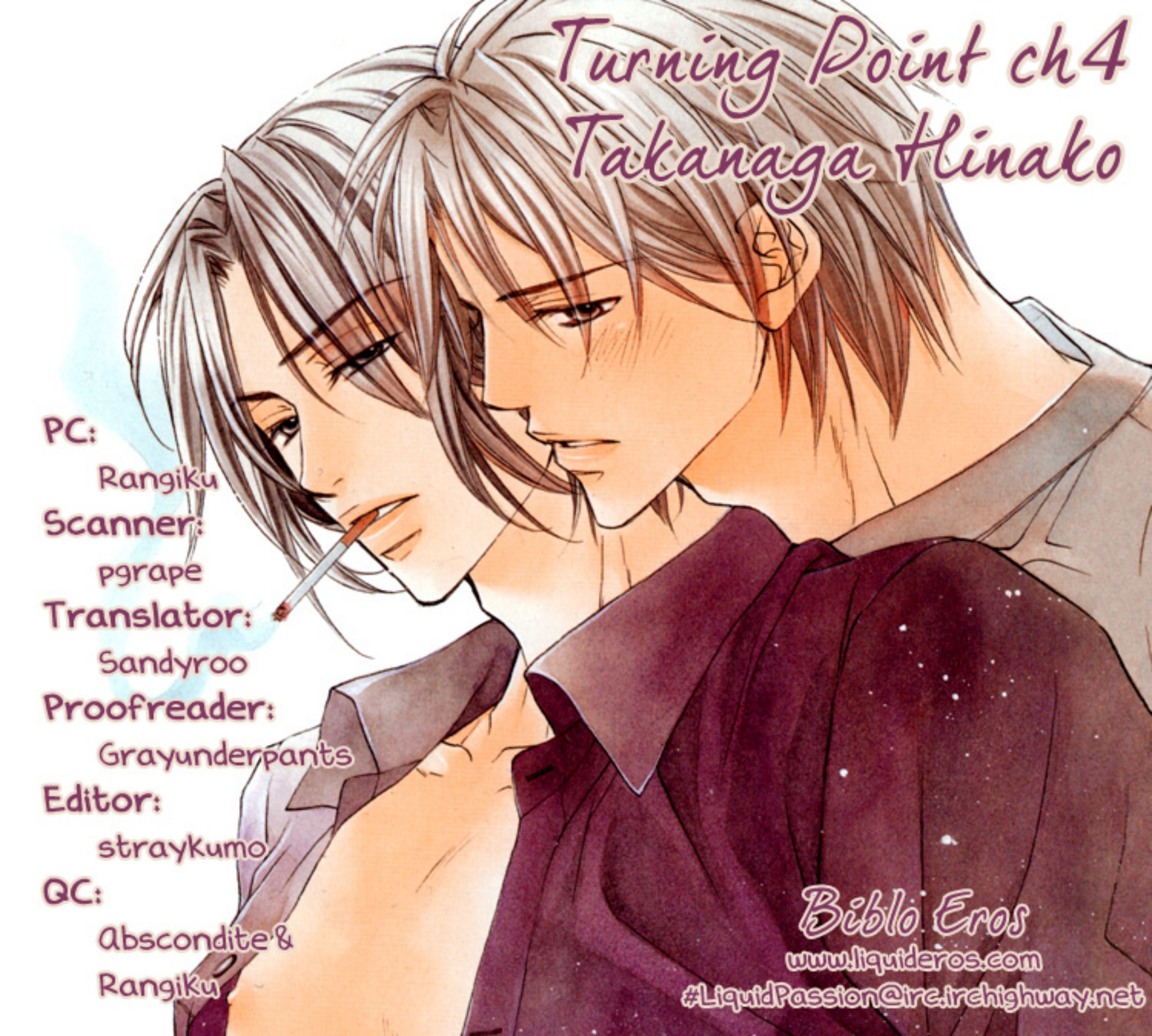
Turning Point ch4
Takanaga Hinako



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ターニングポイント
前編
~third point~
Turning Point (First part)

UGH ...

ring- ring

ring- ring

ring- ring

ring- ring

click

...YES?

SAKURAGI SPEAK-ING...

YEAH.

OH, HEY, ENDO...

...HE ...HE IS, ACTU-ALLY...

WHY...?

How did he know?

EH...?

drag

fly dump

I thought so!

Wow, that's a relief.

Is he with you right now?

WELL, IT'S ABOUT IMAMURA.

It's fine... what's up?

SORRY TO CALL SO EARLY.

HOLD ON.

I'LL PUT HIM ON.

noogie

noogie

DON'T BE SO HONEST, STUPID ...!

Ow Oww ...?

I called you, guessing he might be there again.

It's been happening a lot, so

Oh, I spent the night drinking over at Sakuragi-san's place!

These days, when I can't get hold of him, he always says:

...

zzz

has become pretty hectic recently.

Ima-mura's work

HUH!?

I-I'M SORRY, I'LL HEAD OVER RIGHT NOW!

Ima-mura!

Did you forget your audition!?

It starts at eleven, right?

Endo's prediction turned out to be spot on.

HE COULD HAVE A GREAT FUTURE ...

I'D LIKE TO TRY BUILD-ING ON THAT TALENT.

Thanks to that, Imamura has now become the rising star of our theatre company...

YOU CAN MAKE IT IF YOU HURRY.

HERE'S YOUR BAG.

THANK YOU!

rush rush

YOU TOLD ME IT STARTED AT ONE PM...

uwah uwah

I GOT THE TIME WRONG!

I HOPE I WON'T BE LATE...

step
step
SAKURAGI-SAN...
?
AH ...!
TAKE CARE!
kiss
!
HEY...!
FOR LUCK!
JUST FOR LUCK!
HURRY UP AND GO ALREADY!
See you later!
GEEZ ...
What's with him?
As for me,
I'm still a struggling playwright whose work doesn't sell.

YOU DID IT, IMAMURA!

YOU GOT THAT PART YOU AUDITIONED FOR!

murmur

HUH?

THE AUDITION ...?

THAT'S RIGHT!

NOT JUST THAT, YOU'RE ONE OF THE TWO MAIN CHARACTERS!

FOR REAL!?

YOU MEAN FOR THE NIGHT DRAMA ON CHUOU T.V.?

Wah!

THAT'S AMAZING! CONGRATU-LATIONS!

THE NIGHT DRAMA ON CHUOU TV...

THAT'S THE ONE SHOWN AROUND ELEVEN PM, RIGHT?

Hey, we're not that pathetic!

badump badump

Thanks, guys...

AWESOME! THIS IS THE FIRST BIG NEWS FOR US SINCE THE THEATRE COMPANY STARTED!

IF YOU APPEAR ON THAT SHOW, YOU'LL INSTANTLY BECOME MORE WELL KNOWN!

WELL DONE!

THAT TIME SLOT IS WHAT THEY'RE CALLING THE GATEWAY TO SUCCESS FOR ASPIRING YOUNG ACTORS!

THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION!

CHEERS!

chatter

chatter

chatter

BE-CAAA-AUSE ~~~

WHAT'S WRONG?

HOW COME THE GUEST OF HONOUR IS LOOKING SO DOWN...?

SAKU-RAGI-SAAAN!

HN?

ENDO-SAN SAID...

HE'S NOT LETTING ME TAKE PART IN THE UPCOMING PLAY.

EH? HOW COME...?

HE SAID IT'S BECAUSE I'LL BE SO BUSY PREPARING FOR THE OTHER ROLE THAT I WON'T HAVE THE TIME TO SPARE.

Eeek!?

NO WAY!

BUT IT'S A PLAY THAT YOU WROTE...!!

OH... I GUESS HE'S RIGHT.

WELL, THAT'S THAT, THEN...

Y... YOU KNOW FULL WELL HOW MUCH I'VE LONGED FOR A ROLE IN ONE OF YOUR PLAYS!

AND NOW, WHEN I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN THE PART ~~~!!

LISTEN. IT'S COMMON SENSE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO BIG JOBS.

ARE YOU STILL SULKING, IMAMURA!?

YOU KNEW IT WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY WHEN YOU AUDITIONED FOR THE PART!

yank

Eep!

COME ON,

WALK STRAIGHT!

He's totally drunk...

SAKU-RAGI-SAA-AAAN!

...

YOU UNGRATEFUL LOUT!

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD BE REJOICING AT THE FACT THAT YOU BEAT THEM ALL TO IT!

BUT YOU SAID THERE WAS LOADS OF COMPETITION, SO I DIDN'T THINK I'D ACTUALLY GET IT~~~!

QUIT BEING SO IRRESPON-SIBLE, IDIOT!

I'M GONNA TURN IT DOWN! I'LL TOTALLY TURN THAT PART DOWN~~~

WHY D'YOU THINK I STARTED ACTING INNA FIRST PLAAAACE~~~?

thud

Uwah!

clap

GET IT TOGETHER!

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD ...

Ow...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT BEING FAMOUS~~~

I JUST WANNA BE IN YOUR PLAAAAY!

IT'S PRETTY ARROGANT TO SAY YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT BEING FAMOUS WHEN YOU'VE NEVER KNOWN HOW HARD IT IS TO NOT EARN ENOUGH TO MAKE A LIVING.

BUT A BIG BREAK LIKE THIS MIGHT NEVER COME AGAIN, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WANT IT LATER.!!

RIGHT NOW, YOU MIGHT NOT REALISE JUST HOW VALUABLE A CHANCE LIKE THIS IS!...

YOU HAVE SO MUCH POTENTIAL...

SO USE EVERY CHANCE AND SHOW ME HOW FAR YOU CAN GO.

WHAT?

BUT...

I... I'M SCARED IT'LL STOP US FROM GETTING CLOSER...

YOU'RE THE REASON I STARTED ACTING...

thu-dump

BUT NOW IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BEING PULLED IN SEPARATE DIRECTIONS...

...WHAT'S THERE TO WORRY ABOUT?

I'M HERE WITH YOU, AREN'T I?

THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO ACT IN ONE OF MY PLAYS...

How rare

to see him like this.

Normally...

he's always overflowing with optimism. It's like his one defining feature.

SAKURAGI-SAN...

BUT YOU'VE GOT TO PROMISE ME...

WHEN THAT TIME COMES, YOU WON'T TURN DOWN A PART IN MY PLAY, OKAY?

I WOULDN'T DO THAT.

YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T!

I WAS JUST KIDDING.

...NH, WAIT...

NH!

WAIT, I SAID. NOT HERE...

LET'S JUST MOVE THIS...

hah.

hah.

TO THE BEDROOM ...

push

AH...

... NGH!

hah...

rub

stroke

NNH...

IT'LL HURT MY BACK...

HEY...

nh

IF WE DO IT HERE...

LET'S MOVE...

This isn't like him...

He must be starting to feel the pressure...?

thrust

AH!

UWAH!

Or is it...

that... he somehow...

THAT...

STUPID....

tremble

DRUNK...!!!

UH...

senses my own insecurities...?

...if that's true,

AH!

AH...

AAH!

LOOK, LOOK!

IMAMURA-KUN'S ON!

he's pretty sharp...

The drama on Chuou TV became a smash hit,

and Imamura instantly became high in demand.

HE'S ALWAYS ON TV THESE DAYS!

LIKE VARIETY SHOWS AND STUFF.

Wow, in the Prime time slot.

HE'S PRETTY BOUNCY AND UPBEAT, SO HE DOES WELL IN THEM.

WE DEFINITELY HAVE TO CAST HIM IN OUR NEXT PERFORMANCE...

Finally, we have a star to our name...

...

mwahaha

YOU SAID IT.

ring- ring

HELLO ?

Sakuragi-san?

It's me...

HEY.

I'm sorry! It's about our plans for tonight...

They've suddenly told me that they need me for a meeting that's combined with a drinking party...

OH...

...That's okay. Nothing we can do about it.

UM...

I'LL DEFINITELY GIVE YOU A CALL TOMORROW.

Yeah, I'll wait to hear from you.

Till then. Take care.

Ah...

beep

IMA-MURA-KUN?

COME ON, HURRY UP.

Ah!

ON MY WAY!

...

I'M AS EXCITED ABOUT HIS CAREER

AS IF IT WERE MY OWN...

I really am happy that he's doing so well...

How-ever...

I'm sure his life will continue changing.

He'll have to think about his future, his position, and all the choices he's faced with.

He won't have the luxury...

to take it easy like he's done up to now.

I guess... the same goes for me.

I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER...

WE CAN KEEP THIS RELATIONSHIP GOING...

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME OUT TONIGHT,

BUT HE WANTED TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF TO YOU.

APOLOGIES FOR THE BAR SET-TING.

NOT AT ALL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!

I WANTED TO HAVE A CHAT WITH YOU ABOUT WHERE TO GO TO FROM HERE.

HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED ON WHAT YOU'RE WORKING ON NEXT...?

SONADA'S THE NAME. NICE TO MEET YOU.

THANKS TO YOU, THE DRAMA'S BECOME SO POPULAR THAT WE'VE EVEN SECURED A DVD DEAL FOR IT.

HE SAID HE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU AFTER SEEING THE DRAMA.

HE'S THE PRODUCER OF OUR STATION'S DRAMA DEPARTMENT...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE HEARD THAT YOU'RE AFFILIATED WITH A THEATRE COMPANY.

HAVEN'T YOU THOUGHT ABOUT REGISTERING WITH A PRODUCTION AGENCY?

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT THAT FAR...

THEATRE?

SO I'LL BE DOING THAT.

OH,

ACTUALLY... I MIGHT BE GETTING A ROLE IN A NEW THEATRICAL PLAY.

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME GOOD AGENCIES?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT, REALLY!

Ah, sorry for making you pour.

BUT IT MUST BE TOUGH MANAGING YOUR SCHED-ULE ALL BY YOURSELF.

ACTUALLY... I'M TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH ONE OF THE PLAYWRIGHT'S WORKS...

MY ADMIRATION FOR HIM DROVE ME TO START ACTING IN THE FIRST PLACE...

Thanks for the drink.

SO I'D LIKE TO CONCENTRATE ON THEATRICAL WORK IN THE FUTURE.

...I'M SORRY TO TURN DOWN YOUR KIND OFFER.

OH...

MAY I ASK WHAT HIS NAME IS?

I'D LIKE TO GO SEE ONE OF HIS PLAYS MYSELF.

Eh?

PLEASE, DO!!

HIS SCRIPTS REALLY ARE THE GREATEST.

THERE'S ACTUALLY ONE THAT'S BACK ON STAGE AGAIN NOW!

I'VE GOT TICKETS HERE, SO PLEASE GO SEE IT!

OH? THANK YOU.

SAKURAGI-SAN'S PLAYS CAN SEEM A BIT DETACHED AT FIRST, BUT

ACTUALLY, DEEP MEANING AND REAL PASSION HIDES BENEATH THE SURFACE...

I SEE ...

I still end up crying, no matter how often I watch it!

And then...

AND ALSO, Y'KNOW...

IT'S NOT JUST THE SCRIPTS HE WRITES!

SAKURAGI-SAN HIMSELF IS SUCH AN AMAZING PERSON...!!

TEARY

unuh

BUT... EVEN THOUGH I LOVE HIM SO MUCH...

HE STILL HASN'T LET ME ACT IN ONE OF HIS PLAYS!

YOU DON'T SAY?

ISN'T THAT CRUEL OF HIM!?

AND ALSO... THESE DAYS...

He's drunk...

Y-yeah.

SAKURAGI-SAN'S BEEN REALLY COLD TO MEEEE!

waah

Uwaaah

WHYYY? TELL ME WHY, SAKURAGI-SAAAAAN ~~~

HUH...?

SEEMS TO ME YOU'D JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO APPEAR IN PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING HE'S WRITTEN.

uuh

uuh

I totally do.

YOU MUST REALLY LOVE THIS WRITER.

WELL, YEAH...

I'D TAKE ON ANY ROLE~~~

Ehe!♡

IF IT'S SAKURAGI-SAN'S SCRIPT,

Hmm.

WOULD YOU, NOW...

ding-dong

SAKURA-GI-SAN?

ding

dong

HELLOOO...

ding-dong

SAKURAGI-SAN...?

?

"'

open

AH!

...

SORRY FOR COMING SO LATE...

...SAKURAGI-SAN?

IT'S FINE.

COME ON IN.

thu-dump

EH...

WHAT'S THIS...?

SOME-HOW...

HE'S MAD...?

But I haven't seen him in so long...

...LISTEN.

TODAY, AT REHEARSALS,

SOMEONE CALLED SONADA-SAN FROM CHUOU TV CAME TO SEE ME.

OH, REALLY?

HE SAW THAT PLAY OF MINE THAT'S BACK ON STAGE AT THE MOMENT.

HE SAID YOU GAVE HIM TICKETS.

I-I DID.

HE ASKED ME IF I'D BE INTERESTED IN WRITING THE SCRIPT FOR A NEW DRAMA.

AND WHAT DID HE...?

A BUSINESS PROPOSAL, IF YOU LIKE.

THAT'S WONDERFUL!

I KNEW IT!

I KNEW THAT, IF HE'D SEE THE PLAY, HE'D REALISE HOW GREAT YOUR WORK IS!

IMA-MURA ...

HUH?

WHAT DID I...?

...WHAT DID YOU TELL SONADA-SAN?

WHY WOULD YOU COME TO ME FOR THIS?

YES... BUT,

HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO READ THE DRAFT OUTLINE THAT I SENT YOU EARLIER?

BUT TO MY MIND, THAT CONTRAST COULD ACTUALLY MAKE IT INTRIGUING TO WATCH.

I ADMIT THE FEEL OF THIS STORY IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN OF YOUR WORK.

THIS DOESN'T REALLY FIT MY WRITING STYLE...

BESIDES,

I'M HOPING TO CAST IMAMURA-KUN FROM YOUR THEATRE COMPANY.

HE SEEMS KEEN TO ACT IN ANYTHING YOU WRITE... LIKE IT'S HIS GREATEST WISH.

EH...?

DID YOU...

TELL HIM THAT YOU'D ACT IN HIS DRAMA

AS LONG AS I WROTE THE SCRIPT FOR IT?

...

IT APPEARS HE'S REALLY IN LOVE WITH YOUR WORK. WE'RE EAGER TO ACCOMMODATE THAT WISH...

Of course, we're also impressed by what we've seen of your work...

HUUH?

YOU'RE STILL TOO MUCH OF A NEWBIE TO BARTER OVER ROLES LIKE THIS!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN PLACE, DO YOU!?

I... I NEVER SAID THAT TO HIM.

THEN WHAT DID YOU SAY?

ARE YOU TELLING ME IT'S JUST HIS MISUNDER-STANDING?

WHAT DID I SAY ...?

I'D HAD A BIT TO DRINK THAT EVENING ...

SO I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER ALL THAT CLEARLY ...

SO IT WAS ALL DOWN TO ALCOHOL!?

...WELL, IN THAT CASE IT WAS JUST FRIVOLOUS CHATTER FROM YOU.

HE MUST'VE THOUGHT YOU WERE SERIOUS...

B-BUT I DON'T REMEMBER BARTERING FOR ANY ROLES!

THAT MUCH I DO REMEMBER!

I ONLY TOLD HIM HOW AMAZING I THINK YOU ARE, SAKURAGI-SAN.

I HATE MIXING WORK WITH MY PRIVATE LIFE LIKE THIS!!

BUT NOW IT'S RESULTED IN HIM OFFERING US A JOB TOGETHER!

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M IN A POSITION TO BE PICKY ABOUT WHAT I TAKE ON...

...

IN TRUTH, I'D BE PRETTY INTERESTED IN TAKING ON THIS JOB.

SAKU-RAGI-SAN...

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO THINK OF IT THAT WAY?

HE OBVIOUSLY RESPECTS YOUR SKILLS, OR HE WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED YOU!

HAH?

BUT I'M GOING TO TURN THE OFFER DOWN,

SINCE IT'S A JOB THAT I DIDN'T EARN BY OWN SKILLS.

NO WAY...

SAKU-RAGI-SAN...!

THINK ABOUT IT!

SONADA-SAN WENT TO SEE YOUR PLAY, DIDN'T HE?

PLEASE STOP BEING SO SUSPI-CIOUS!!

MAYBE IT WAS ME WHO FIRST TIPPED HIM OFF, BUT

ULTIMATELY, WASN'T IT THE QUALITY OF YOUR OWN WORK THAT MADE HIM DECIDE?

HAVE YOU EVEN SEEN THE DRAFT OUTLINE?

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!

BUT NOW YOU'RE PLANNING ON LETTING THIS OPPORTUNITY GO JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE BEING STUBBORN ABOUT IT!?

YOU KEEP TELLING ME NOT TO LET A SINGLE CHANCE PASS ME BY...

BUT I HAVE MY PRIDE!

I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME HOW GREAT IT WOULD BE TO TAKE ON THIS JOB,

bash

shop

!

If you want to do it, just accept the offer!

Don't let your stupid pride get in the way.

Yeah, well, sorry if it seems that stupid to you!!

But being reduced to picking up leftover jobs thanks to my boyfriend's connections

is just too pathetic for words!

SAKU...

WAIT...

SLAM

What a disgrace.

SAKURAGI-SAN!

SAKURAGI-SAN!

In the end

did things really

have to turn out this way?

...I hate

myself.

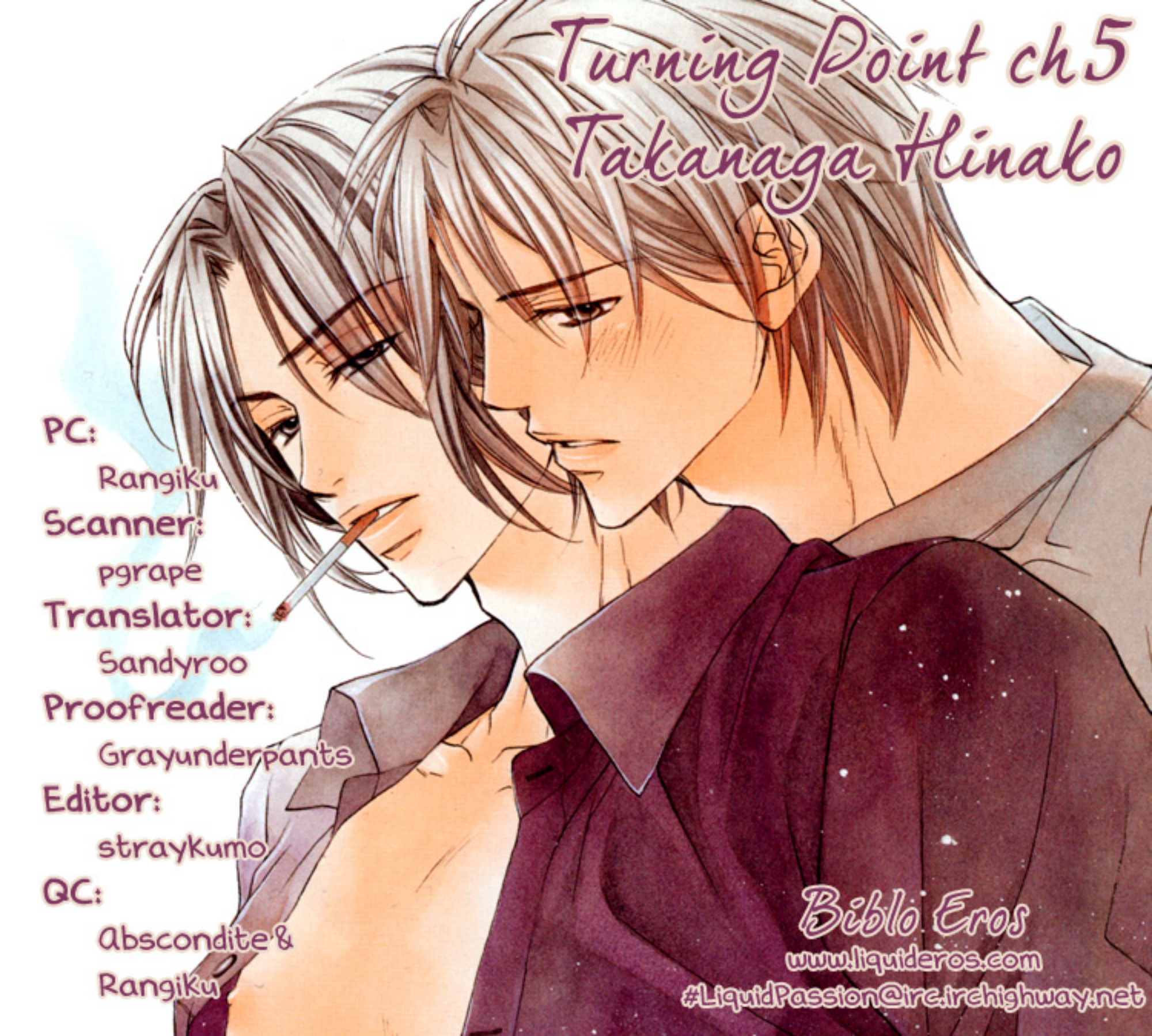
SAKURAGI-SAN...!!

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ANYMORE ...!

GET OUT!

Turning Point
third point first half * END

Turning Point ch5
Takanaga Hinako



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ターニングポイント 後編

～third point～

Turning Point (second half)

UM,

GOOD MORNING.

OH, MORNING.

Hiya.

SAKU-RAGI?

UM... IS SAKURAGI-SAN IN TODAY...?

Ah...

OH, RIGHT...

?

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU CAN STILL REACH HIM AT HOME.

IF IT'S URGENT, JUST CALL HIM...

EH?

NO...

OH... HE WON'T BE COMING FOR A WHILE.

HE'S BUSY WITH OTHER WORK RIGHT NOW.

HUH?

HE WON'T LET ME INTO HIS APARTMENT, EITHER...

HE'S NOT ANSWERING MY CALLS...

I'M SORRY... IT JUST DOESN'T FIT INTO MY SCHEDULE RIGHT NOW...

What?? You're turning my offer down...? But why, Sakuragi-san!?

I'm sure we could work something out.

...Or do you really think this project isn't down your alley?

THAT'S NOT IT...

ANYWAY, I'M SORRY BUT...

No, wait. Please don't be so hasty...

Could we meet one more time to talk it over?

Maybe we can work something out if you let me know your thoughts...

FINE...

NOTHING FOR IT.

IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN GO AROUND PISSING OFF IMAMURA'S WORK CONTACTS...

clack

I BET THEY THINK THEY NEED ME IN ORDER TO CAST IMAMURA...

HOW CAN I SET THEM STRAIGHT...?

SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON...?

IS HE REALLY GOING TO TURN THE OFFER DOWN?

I KNOW...

SAKURAGI NEVER MENTIONED IT TO ME...

I HAD NO IDEA.

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.

BUT HE JUST WON'T BELIEVE THAT.

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THEY CHOSE SAKURAGI-SAN BASED ON HIS OWN ABILITIES...

THERE'S NO WAY THE STUDIO WOULD THINK I WAS NEGOTIATING FOR THE ROLE.

I MEAN... I'M STILL A NEWBIE, Y'KNOW?

THAT MAN NEVER CHANGES...

HONESTLY ...

I'VE LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY TIMES I'VE ARGUED WITH HIM OVER SIMILAR SITUATIONS.

Sigh

NEVER CHANGES...?

WELL, BACK THEN, ONE OF THE SPONSORS WAS THREATENING TO DROP US.

TO BE HONEST, THEY WERE MAKING SOME RIDICULOUS DEMANDS OF HIM.

I WAS IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION, CAUGHT BETWEEN BOTH SIDES.

THINGS GOT HEATED BETWEEN US,

AND HE JUST SNAPPED...

EH...

REALLY?

YOU MUST'VE NOTICED THAT HE'S NOT ONE TO COMPROMISE, RIGHT...?

HE WORKS FREELANCE NOW, BUT HE USED TO BE UNDER AN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT WITH US.

BUT IT ALL BLEW UP, AND HE LEFT.

...

So that's what happened...

IF ONLY HE WERE A LITTLE MORE BUSINESS-MINDED...

HE'S GOT PLENTY OF TALENT.

I guess freelancing worked out for him, so it's okay.

WHEN THINGS CALMED DOWN, I ASKED HIM TO COME BACK, BUT TO NO AVAIL...

I WONDER HOW I CAN MAKE SAKURAGI-SAN SEE THAT HE GOT IT ALL WRONG...

IT WON'T BE EASY. FOR SOME-ONE AS PROUD AS HE IS, HE'S GOT REMARKABLY LOW SELF-ESTEEM...

THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR ADVICE TODAY.

NO WORRIES. I'LL TRY TALKING TO HIM THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM, TOO.

bow

Don't stress too much.

I THOUGHT HE WAS ON THE RIGHT PATH, BUT...

SEEMED TO HELP HIM FINALLY LOOSEN UP AGAIN.

SPENDING TIME WITH SOMEONE OPTIMISTIC LIKE YOU

EH?

...WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THAT, EVEN IF SAKURAGI DISTANCES HIMSELF FROM YOU BECAUSE OF THIS, DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP OVER IT.

YOU KNOW HOW DIFFICULT HE CAN BE. IF YOU FALL OUT WITH HIM ONCE, WELL...

BUT IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. I DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS OUT ON YOUR BIG CHANCE BECAUSE YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT HIM.

HUH...?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

...YOU'RE A RISING STAR NOW.

YOU HAVE TO SET ASIDE OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS AND PUT YOURSELF FIRST RIGHT NOW.

...

Sakuragi-san is...

distancing himself...?

I'M SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU OUT AGAIN.

FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ACCEPT YOUR OFFER...

NO, I SHOULD BE APOLOGIS-ING.

WHY DON'T WE START BY TALKING ABOUT WHAT THE STUDIO CAN DO TO MEET YOUR WISHES...?

NO, WAIT. LET'S NOT RUSH ANYTHING HERE.

Damn...

What a pain...

IT'S NOT ABOUT MY WISHES...

I JUST DON'T THINK I'M SUITED TO THIS KIND OF PROJECT...

WE'RE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU ALL THE SUPPORT YOU NEED...

OH, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THAT TILL YOU TRY.

I already told him as bluntly as I could... even if I don't write the script,

Imamura will still take the job...

How can I make it any clearer?

SURELY, YOU CAN ASK SOME OTHER WRITER WHO HAS EXPERIENCE IN THIS GENRE RATHER THAN PUTTING IN ALL THIS TIME AND EFFORT WITH ME.

rustle rustle

earnest

DEFINITELY NOT!

I DON'T INTEND TO FOLLOW THE OLD CONVENTIONS WITH THIS ONE!

What?

THAT'S THE THOUGHT THAT STRUCK ME WHEN I SAW YOUR PLAY!

rustle

ACTUALLY, I'VE BROUGHT ALONG ANOTHER PROJECT FOR YOU TO HAVE A LOOK AT TODAY.

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS ONE CLOSER TO YOUR ORIGINAL STYLE.

Hm...?

I UNDERSTAND YOU MAY FEEL RELUCTANT SINCE YOU'VE NEVER WRITTEN ANYTHING FOR TV, SAKURAGI-SAN...

SO AFTER RECONSIDERING THE SITUATION, I THOUGHT WE COULD START YOU OFF WITH THE GENRE THAT YOU'RE BEST AT...

AND GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO SHOW WHAT YOU CAN DO!!

AH... I'M SORRY, I WAS GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF.

BUT,

YOU SEE HOW KEEN WE ARE TO GET YOU INVOLVED...

THAT NEW PROJECT YOU MENTIONED,

WOULD THAT BE WITH IMAMURA AS WELL...?

ONCE WE'VE GOTTEN EVERYONE'S ATTENTION WITH YOUR DEBUT SCRIPT, WE'LL SWOOP IN WITH THE ORIGINAL PROJECT!!

What a great lead-in!!

WE'LL GET THEM TOTALLY HOOKED ON YOUR WORK!

ER, LISTEN...

... SONODA-SAN...

HUH?

NO, THIS ONE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IMAMURA-KUN.

murmur

YOU STILL WANT ME...?

YOU MEAN, EVEN WHEN I'M NOT PART OF A SET,

EXCUSE ME?

hah

AH...

...

YOU WERE REJECTING THE OFFER...?

AAH... DO YOU MEAN...

THAT WAS THE REASON...

...!

Uwah...

I...

...He's not calling...

I KNOW I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO CALL HIM.

BUT STILL...

...

...

after all this?...

How can I face him

...

This way, neither of us will get hurt too deeply.

A part of me felt that... one way or the other, we wouldn't last long.

If it has to end anyway, it might be easier to just drift apart like this...

Could this be for the best...?

IMAMURA...

Can I...

ring- ring...

gasp

ring- ring

HELLO?

SAKU- RAGI SPEAK- ING...

Ah!

Thank goodness, you picked up...!!

Please don't hang up! Just hear me out for a second!

WAIT, LISTEN, IMAMURA...

IMAMURA...

No way!

bzzzz

click

HEY ...!

I'm coming over right now! I've got some really important stuff to say, so will you see me? It won't take long.

Don't run away, okay? I'll be over right away! Wait for me! 'kay?

IMAMURA,

LISTEN TO ME—

!

ding- dong ding- dong ding- dong

oper

IMA...

I...

SAKURAGI-SAN, THANK GOD!

LISTEN,

I... I'm going to turn down Sonoda-san's offer!

You might not agree with my choice, but...

My mind's made up!

WHA...?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...!?

I KNOW THAT EVEN WITHOUT ME,

SONODA-SAN WILL STILL WANT TO USE YOU!

...!

OF COURSE I HAVEN'T ASKED HIM TO DO THAT OR ANYTHING, SO DON'T MISUNDER-STAND.

BUT THIS WAY... YOU'LL STOP DOUBTING THAT YOUR OWN ABILITIES GOT YOU THE OFFER, RIGHT...?

I WISH...

YOU COULD HAVE A BIT MORE FAITH...

FAITH IN ME,

AND FAITH IN YOURSELF...

IMA-MURA...

I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I'M BEING FRIVOLOUS ABOUT THE ROLE, EITHER.

I KNOW I'LL HAVE TO WORK TWICE AS HARD TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOST OPPORTUNITY!

...

SO PLEASE LET ME GO THROUGH WITH THIS.

THAT'S ALL...

SAKU...

...IT'S ALRIGHT, ALREADY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY OF THAT...

I never wanted you to go that far.

I can't hear you...

WHAT? EH?

I SAID IT'S ALRIGHT ALREADY!!

I TALKED IT ALL THROUGH WITH SONODA-SAN!

HUH?

YOU DID?

WHEN?

... YESTER-DAY...

REALLY!?

A-AND ...?

WELL...

Imamura is always so resolute and true...

so much that it scares me.

YEAH, I ACCEPTED IT.

THEN, WHAT ABOUT THE OFFER...?

THAT'S GREAT!

SO IN OTHER WORDS... YOU REALISED IT WAS ALL JUST A MISUNDER-STANDING?

Now we can finally work together on the same production!!

For real!?

That's awesome!!

!

shove

It was just on impulse!

OUT OF PROPORTION!

Ah...

Sorry.

DON'T BE STUPID.

YOU'RE BLOW-ING IT TOTALLY

ANYONE WHO READS YOUR SCRIPTS...

SEE? SEE? DIDN'T I TELL YOU?

IT WAS YOUR OWN ABILITIES THAT GOT YOU NOTICED!

Quit yelling.

RECOGNISE HOW GREAT THEY ARE.

WILL INSTANTLY

I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU THAT FROM THE START!

...

...IMAMURA,

I'M SORRY.

EH?

OH,

I'M REALLY SORRY

THAT I WAS SO SUSPI-CIOUS.

IT'S OKAY...

WHY DON'T WE END IT?

OUR RELATION-SHIP.

HUH...?

BECAUSE I HATE THE THOUGHT OF BEING THE ONE THING HOLDING YOU BACK!!

BUT... HUH?

WH-WHY? WHY?

HUUH!?

WHY? ALL OF A SUDDEN ...

IT'S NOT SUDDEN.

I'VE BEEN THINKING IT FOR A WHILE.

I'M HAPPY THAT YOUR WORK IS GOING SO WELL. I'M 100% BEHIND YOU.

...SUSPECT. YOU...

AND YET I CAN'T HELP BEING LIKE THIS... I JERK YOU AROUND,

...I LOSE FAITH IN MYSELF WHILE ENVYING YOUR SUCCESS ...

IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU FIND SOMEONE AS STUPIDLY SELF-INVOLVED AS ME.

I GET CYNICAL ...

AND SAY HARSH THINGS.

DON'T SAY THAT...!! EVERY-ONE HAS UPS AND DOWNS!

BESIDES, DIDN'T YOU FIGURE OUT THAT THE WHOLE THING WAS JUST A MISUNDER-STANDING ON YOUR PART?

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO BREAK UP OVER SOME-THING LIKE THAT...!

IT'S TOO HARD TO BE WITH YOU WHILE I'M HATING MYSELF LIKE THIS.

NO! NO!

I'M BEGGING YOU!

PLEASE DON'T SAY YOU'RE BREAKING UP WITH ME...!!

IMA-MURA ...

SAKURAGI-SAN!

I KNOW YOU DON'T FIND IT EASY TO BATTLE WITH YOUR EMOTIONS LIKE THIS,

I'LL ACCEPT YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE,

AND I'LL NEVER STOP LIKING YOU.

!

BUT THAT'S PART OF WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU.

YOU JUST HAVE TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, LIKE YOU ARE NOW.

YOU SAY THAT YOU HATE YOURSELF,

BUT I LOVE YOU. I JUST KNOW I'LL KEEP LOVING YOU TILL I DIE.

...

THE ONLY WAY I'D EVER GIVE UP ON YOU IS IF YOU TELL ME...

THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME...

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ME...?

SAKURAGI-SAN.

...I JUST WANTED TO END IT

BEFORE THE BUBBLE BURST, AND YOU LEFT ME.

...!

...SAKURAGI-SAN.

NH...

AH...

Emotions are without form or substance.

With them, nothing is certain...

It's easy to laugh at those who make big promises based on feelings.

UH... NH...

CAN YOU MOVE YOUR ARM?

I WANT TO SEE MORE OF YOUR FACE.

Acting like they're so sure without knowing what the future holds.

NH...

YOUR VOICE, TOO...

I WANT TO HEAR IT...

MMH...

Haah.

Haah...

I WANT TO KNOW EVERY LAST PART OF YOU, SAKURAGI-SAN...

ah.

THE MORE I KNOW YOU, THE DEEPER MY LOVE FOR YOU GROWS.

lick

It's much more difficult to believe in them.

YOU STILL DON'T TRUST ME...?

THEN, LET'S TEST IT

YOU'LL JUST GET SICK AND TIRED OF ME...

IF YOU SEE ALL THE HATEFUL PARTS OF ME...

AH...!

HOWEVER MANY YEARS IT MAY TAKE.

SHOW ME ALL.

thrust

BY YOU SHOWING ME EVERYTHING THAT'S INSIDE YOU.

And yet,

without knowing why,

NNH...

...

AH.

HAH...

AH!

TRUST ME.

DON'T WORRY.

I'LL LOVE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE.

creak

I find myself believing him completely.

I GAVE YOU THE CHANCE TO GET OUT OF THIS, YOU KNOW...

IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT IF YOU REGRET IT LATER.

I don't wanna get out of it.

YOU'RE STILL TALKING LIKE THAT?

THERE'RE OTHER REASONS... YOU'RE A RISING STAR, SO...

IF ANYONE FOUND OUT THAT YOU HAVE A MALE LOVER...

I DON'T JUST MEAN THAT YOUR FEELINGS MIGHT CHANGE.

IT'S THINGS LIKE THAT...

WOULDN'T IT LEAD TO ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE...?

!

OH, BUT

EVEN WITHOUT YOU, THEY'D FIND OUT EVENTUALLY.

So breaking up's pointless, right?

I'VE BEEN GAY FROM THE START, SO...

used to be straight

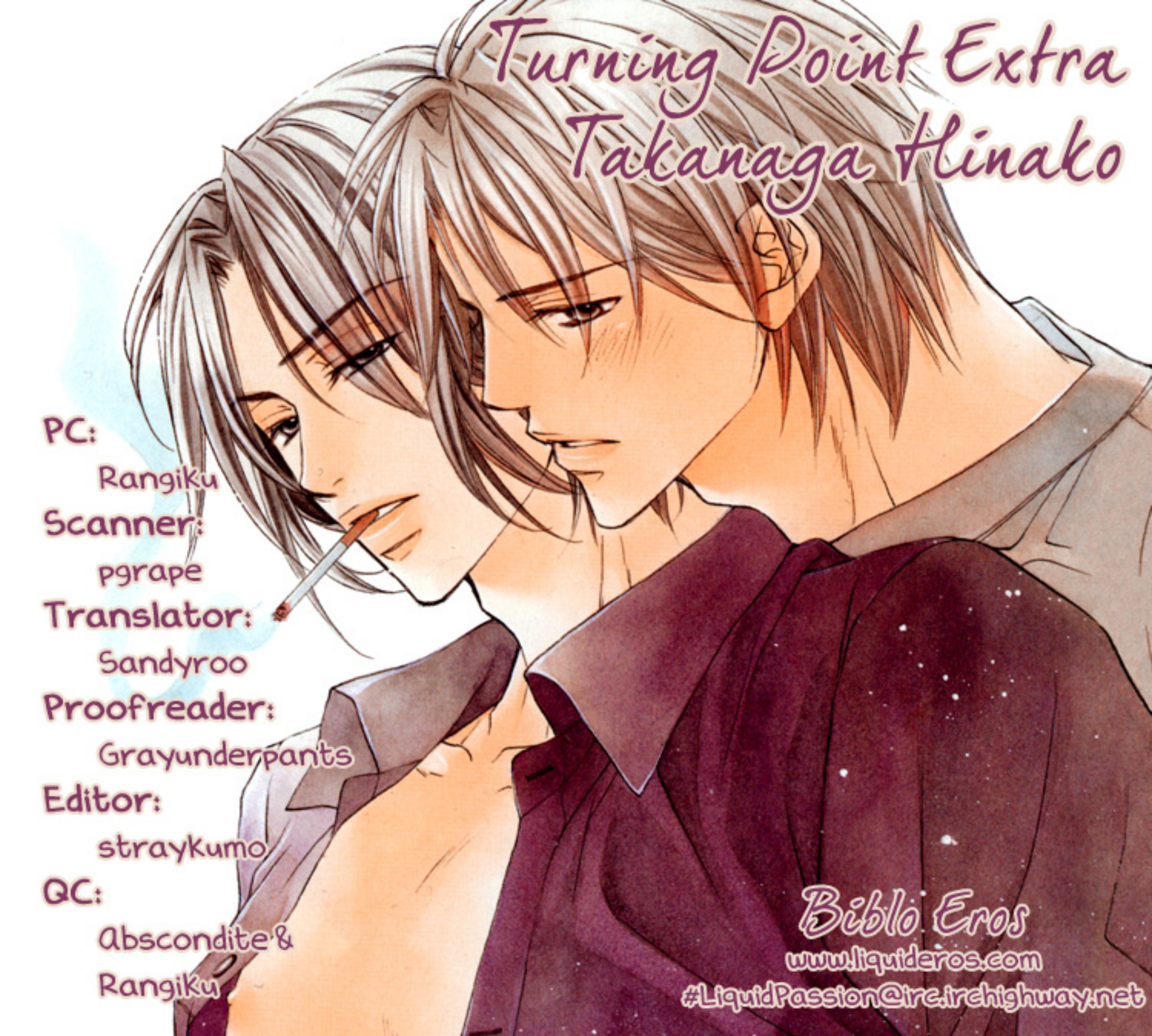
For some reason I thought he was the same as me!

DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT?

Huh?

Turning Point: Third point, second half ✻ End

Turning Point Extra
Takanaga Hinako



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2011 FEBRUARY 2

POSTCARD 鷹谷あい

ESSAY TONO

隔月刊化5周年記念♥

第1弾

豪華描き下ろしイラスト&直筆サイン色紙プレゼント!!

カラー
愛の手料理、ご賞味あれ♡
隆巳ジロ

ついに秀穂の心のうちが明かされ…。
最終回カラー
冬乃郁也
(原作:崎谷はるひ)

攫われた紅音の危機に蒼が目覚める…!!
最終回カラー
かんべあきら

新連載 巻頭カラー
傷心の宮田の前に現れた年下の男はくせ者で…。
富士山ひょうた
「不測ノ恋情」

最終回!!
タカツキノボル 北沢きょう
扇ゆずは 果桃なばこ あくた琳子

特別ふろく♥

ミニドラマCD
高永ひなこ
「ターニングポイント ふたりの休日 桜木編」
CAST 桜木:前野智昭 今村:羽多野渉

大人気連載陣
館野とお子
日吉丸晃
(原案:ごとうしのぶ)
緋色れーいち
嶋二
神葉理世

前後編♡
水名瀬雅良
日向せいりょう
七海
いつきまこと
ミズノ内木

シリーズ&初登場よみきり
石原 理
桜 遼
南条つぐみ

応募者全員サービス 表紙イラスト図書カード

描き下ろし

ふたりの休日

Extra
A Day Off Together

SAKURAGI-SAN!♡

WHAT'S WITH THE OUTFIT...?

IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO GO OUT WITHOUT COVERING MY FACE UP...

Imamura's career is going great.

He even told me he's been chosen to play the lead in an upcoming movie.

WELL, WHY DON'T WE GET SOME FOOD FIRST...?

OOH, ITALIAN! I WANNA EAT ITALIAN!

At least ditch the hat now that we're indoors.

Oh, okay.

This tastes great!♪

He's quickly become one of the most prominent young actors around.

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT HE'D MAKE IT THIS BIG...?

I'm the same as ever, but...

I feel that since writing the television scripts, I've been able to take on a much broader range of work than before.

I guess working on television has that effect, but...

These days, I find myself thinking

that my job is fun again...

just like it was in the old days...

MAYBE BECAUSE THE TV JOB ADDED VARIETY TO MY WORK?

IT WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED... REALLY THERAPEU-TIC...

chuckle

WHAT'S WITH THE BIG GRIN?

DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?

IT'S NOTH-ING...

I wasn't grinning

whisper whisper
What?
Who is it?
Isn't that...?
...
The food was great!
Yeah.
HUH?
LET'S GET SOME DESSERT BEFORE WE GO.
We still have time, right...?
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
COME ON.
rattle
!
ARGH, YOU SEE...?
EXCUSE ME...?
!
Huh? Where?
THEY'RE BOUND TO COME PESTER YOU.
IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE TWO OVER THERE HAVE RECOGNISED YOU.
MUTTER MUTTER

Eh?

SAKURAGI KEIGO-SAN, RIGHT?

YOU'RE SAKURAGI-SAN...

WHAT?

ME!?

I WENT TO SEE YOUR PRODUCTION OF "H.A.T." JUST THE OTHER DAY!

I'M A HUGE FAN OF YOUR WORK!

WOW, I KNEW IT!

THIS IS SO AMAZING! I'D NEVER HAVE IMAGINED I'D MEET YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

WHEN I WATCHED YOUR INTERVIEW, YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS YOUR WORK MADE A REALLY DEEP IMPRESSION ON ME.

yup! yup!

I BECAME AN INSTANT FAN!

BESIDES, YOU'RE HANDSOME ENOUGH TO BE AN ACTOR YOURSELF, SAKURAGI-SAN!

Hn?

I SAW YOU ON THE CREATORS' INTERVIEW THAT WAS SHOWN ON MHK TV NOT LONG AGO!

...!

I hardly ever make public appear-ances.

...HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?

...!

OF COURSE, IF YOU LIKE...

COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?

NO, DON'T MENTION IT...

I'll treasure it!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Good luck!

That's the first time I was asked for my autograph in such a random place as this...

...

clack

He sounds just like a certain someone I know...

I'M ACTUALLY TRAINING TO BECOME AN ACTOR MYSELF!

I HOPE ONE DAY I'LL BE GOOD ENOUGH TO ACT IN SOMETHING YOU WROTE, SAKURAGI-SAN!

WOW.

haha

THAT WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE.

RECEIVING THAT KIND OF ATTENTION...

NH?

...WHAT?

Huh?

glower

...DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

EH?

...WHA?

Y... YOU CAN'T JUST

LET ANY OLD RANDOM ACTOR

PLAY IN SOMETHING YOU WROTE, SAKURAGI-SAN...!

N-NOT WHEN I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD THE CHANCE TO WORK WITH YOU...!!

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

BUT—!

COME ON.

WE REALLY NEED TO GET A MOVE ON.

SAKURAGI-SAN!

SAKU-RAGI-SAN, LISTEN!

QUIT YELLING, OR THIS TIME YOU REALLY WILL BE FOUND OUT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE GETTING JEALOUS ABOUT SOME RANDOM PASSER-BY...

PROMISE ME YOU WON'T LET HIM ACT FOR YOU...

BESIDES, DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MANY OTHER ACTORS I'VE USED TO ACT IN MY PLAYS UNTIL NOW...?

He sounded just like me.

BUT... THIS GUY WAS TOO SIMILAR TO ME.

...

WHAT IF... YOU BECOME MORE AND MORE POPULAR WITHOUT EVER GIVING ME THE CHANCE TO WORK WITH YOU...?

EH...

EH?

AH!

MY SCRIPTS DON'T BELONG TO ANY ONE PERSON,

BUT I'M YOURS. ISN'T THAT ENOUGH...?

Y-YES!

HUH?

I MEAN, OF COURSE IT IS!

What the hell am I saying!?

bluuush

step step step

WAIT!

PRETEND I DIDN'T JUST SAY THAT!

HUH? WHY?

I DON'T WANT YOU TO TAKE IT BACK!

A Day Off Together*END

Postscript

Hi, everyone, and welcome to any new readers. To regular readers, it's great to see you again. This is Takanaga Hinako, and I'd like to say a big thank you for choosing to read *Turning Point*. I hope you enjoyed the story!

The first part of this story was published back in 2005, and the later instalments were published at roughly 1-year intervals. So it took around, what... 4 years!? for the full comic to be completed. Which is why the drawing style is so different at the beginning of the story from the end of it!! Saying that, even when a series is drawn over a shorter span it usually takes around a year for a comic to be completed, so I find myself thinking "my drawings at the beginning look so old" almost every single time. But it's especially noticeable in something that took 4 years to complete. Since my debut, the number of years I've been working as a mangaka have reached double figures, so you'd think I'd have settled into a consistent drawing style by now. But I wouldn't want to settle into a crappy style, so I keep trying to improve myself. But wow, don't Sakuragi's eyebrows look thick in the earlier chapters...! I guess I was trying to make him look like quite a masculine character (to me, anyway). But as time went on and the character was fleshed out into this serious-minded person with a strong pessimistic streak, I stopped trying to draw him overly masculine. He turned out with that personality because I really wanted to draw a story of someone negative meeting his total opposite, which changes the way he views the world as a result. But since he starts off so cynical I guess I wanted him to at least look cool on the outside... To be honest, I can't remember what my thought process was 4 years ago...! I mean, it's not like thick eyebrows equal manliness, anyway!

Another thing to mention is Imamura's first name. To be honest, I don't think it fits him all that well. Not that there's anything wrong with the name "Toshiki" in itself, it's just that I don't think it really suits his personality... even my editor kept complaining that Toshiki just sounds wrong for him. Besides... and this is going to make me sound old, but doesn't Toshiki make you think of Carlos Toshiki from the 1980's pop band Omega Tribe...? (I wonder how many of you who read this still remember that band?). Well, anyway, Toshiki sounds more like a name for a smart, no-nonsense type of man rather than the puppy-dog character that we have here. In fact, I should've given him a doggy name like Pochi or Shiro*. (laugh) So please, feel free to switch his name to the Pochi-version or Shiro-version when you read it next. I'm sure it'll be fun!

Or you can stick with Toshiki, it's totally up to you!

Well, I've rambled on for too long already, so I'll stop here. Thanks to my editor and apologies for always causing so much trouble. Heartfelt thanks to my assistants, friends, and family. And above all, huge thanks to all my readers!! I really hope you enjoyed the story! Well then, until next time!

Takanaga Hinako

Takanaga Hinako's home page: ANAGURANZ
http://anaguranz.com/

TN: Stereotypical Japanese dog names, english equivalents would be Fido / Rover, etc.

ダリアコミックスをお買い上げいただきましてありがとうございます。この本を読んでのご意見・ご感想・ファンレターをお待ちしております。

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＊初出一覧＊

ターニングポイント 前編 …… Daria 2005 SPRING（'05 5月号）
ターニングポイント 後編 …… Daria 2005 SUMMER（'05 8月号）
ターニングポイント second point …… Daria 2006 8月号
ターニングポイント third point 前編 …… Daria 2008 4月号
ターニングポイント third point 後編 …… Daria 2008 6月号
ふたりの休日 …… 描き下ろし
あとがき …… 描き下ろし

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